

THE CITY OF VAUGHAN

BY-LAW

BY-LAW NUMBER 047-2026

A By-law to amend the Discharge of Firearms By-law 123-2016, as amended, to prohibit the display of designated weapons and replica designated weapons in public, to exempt the discharge and display of designated weapons and replica designated weapons from the by-law where permitted by a Special Event, Film or other City permit, to add an administrative monetary penalty of \$500 for non-compliance, and to update the enforcement provisions and format of the by-law.

WHEREAS section 119 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O. 2001, c. 25, as amended, ("*Municipal Act*") provides that a municipality may, for the purpose of public safety, prohibit or regulate the discharge of guns or other firearms, air guns, spring-guns, crossbows, long-bows or any other weapon;

AND WHEREAS section 8(1) of the *Municipal Act* provides that sections 8 and 11 shall be interpreted broadly so as to confer broad authority on municipalities to (a) enable them to govern their affairs as they consider appropriate, and (b) enhance their ability to respond to municipal issues;

AND WHEREAS section 11(2) of the *Municipal Act* provides that a municipality may pass by-laws respecting health, safety and well-being of persons;

AND WHEREAS section 425 of the *Municipal Act* provides for a municipality to pass by-laws providing that a person who contravenes a by-law of the municipality passed under the *Municipal Act* is guilty of an offence;

AND WHEREAS section 426 of the *Municipal Act* provides that no person shall hinder or obstruct, or attempt to hinder or obstruct, any person who is exercising a power or performing a duty under the *Municipal Act* or under a by-law passed under the *Municipal Act*;

AND WHEREAS section 429 of the *Municipal Act* provides for a municipality to establish a system of fines for offences under a by-law of the municipality passed under the *Municipal Act*;

AND WHEREAS section 434.1 of the *Municipal Act* provides that a municipality may require a person, subject to such conditions as the municipality considers appropriate, to pay an administrative penalty if the municipality is satisfied that the person has failed to

comply with a by-law of the municipality passed under the *Municipal Act*.

AND WHEREAS section 436 of the *Municipal Act* provides for a municipality to pass by-laws that authorize it to enter on land at any reasonable time for the purpose of carrying out an inspection and, among other things, require information and inspect documents, and take samples;

AND WHEREAS the Council of The Corporation of the City of Vaughan passed the Discharge of Firearms By-law for the purpose of public safety and nuisance control;

AND WHEREAS Council considers it desirable to amend the by-law to prohibit the display of designated weapons and replica designated weapons in public, to exempt the discharge and display of designated weapons from the by-law where permitted by a Special Event, Film or other City permit, to add an administrative penalty of \$500 for non-compliance, and to update the enforcement provisions and format of the by-law;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of The Corporation of the City of Vaughan ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. To amend Firearms By-law 123-2016, as amended,
 - (a) to replace the title, “Discharge of Firearms” with “Discharge and Display of Firearms”:
 - (b) in the preamble, to replace, “to regulate the discharge of firearms within city limits”, to “to regulate the discharge and display of firearms within city limits”,
 - (c) to replace the text in section 1.0(2), with “The By-law shall be known and referenced as the “Discharge and Display of Firearms By-law.”
 - (d) in section 3.0(4), to delete the current definition of “Firearm” and replace it with the following:

“Firearm” refers to a barreled weapon from which any shot, bullet or other projectile can be discharged and that is capable of causing serious bodily injury or death to a person, and includes any frame or receiver of such a barreled weapon and anything that can be adapted for use as a firearm;
 - (e) to add the following definitions to section 3.0(4), in alphabetical order:

“Administrative Penalty” means a penalty established under authority of the *Administrative Penalties By-law*;

“Administrative Penalties By-law” refers to the City’s Administrative

Penalties By-law 240-2024;

“Filming Permit” refers to a filming event permit that has been granted under the City’s Filming By-law 168-2020;

“Municipal Act” refers to *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O. 2001, c. 25;

“Order” means a written notice issued by a *Municipal By-law Enforcement Officer* directing a person to take some action in order to comply with this By-law or correct a contravention of this By-law;

“Person” means an individual, sole proprietor, partnership, corporation, or an individual acting in the capacity of a trustee, executor, administrator or other such legal capacity;

“Property” includes a building or structure or part of a building or structure, its yard and all mobile structures, outbuildings, and fences on the property;

“Provincial Offences Act” refers to the *Provincial Offences Act, R.S.O. 1990*, Chap. P.33;

“Replica Designated Weapon” refers to an imitation of a *Designated Weapon* that can reasonably be mistaken for a real *Designated Weapon*;

“Special Events Permit” refers a special events permit that has been granted under the City’s Special Events By-law 045-2018;

- (f) in section 2.0(2), replace “Persons” with “*Persons*”;
- (g) in sections 4.0(1), 8.0(1) and 8.0(2), to replace “person” with “*Person*”;
- (h) in section 8.0(1), to replace “Provincial Offences Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chap. P.33” with “Provincial Offences Act”;
- (i) in section 8.0(2), to replace “Municipal Act, 2001” with “*Municipal Act*”.
- (j) to add section 4.0(2) as follows, “No *Person* shall publicly display a *Designated Weapon* or a *Replica Designated Weapon*.”
- (k) to add section 6.0(3) as follows, “Notwithstanding part 4.0, a *Designated Weapon* or *Replica Designated Weapon*, may be discharged or publicly displayed if permitted by a *City-issued Special Events Permit, Filming Permit*, other *City* permit, or otherwise by this By-law or under any applicable provincial or federal legislation.”
- (l) to delete and replace section 7.0 with the following:

7.0 Orders and Enforcement

- (1) Any *Person* who contravenes or fails to comply with any provision of this by-law is guilty of an offence.
- (2) A *Municipal By-law Enforcement Officer* or York Regional Police officer may enter onto lands at any reasonable time, for inspection to determine whether the provisions of this By-law, or an *Order* issued under this By-law, have been complied with.
- (3) If a *Municipal By-law Enforcement Officer* or York Regional Police officer has reasonable grounds to believe that a contravention of this By-law has occurred, he or she may issue an *Order* to the *Person* contravening this by-law requiring compliance with this by-law and do the work to correct the contravention of this by-law within the time period specified in the *Order*.
- (4) An *Order* issued under the authority of this By-law, shall include:
 - (a) the municipal address of the *Property* on which the contravention occurred;
 - (b) the date of the contravention;
 - (c) a description of the contravention of the By-law;
 - (d) a description of the work required in order to comply with the By-law;
 - (e) the date on which the work must be completed by; and
 - (f) notice that if the work is not completed by the required date, that the *City* may have the remedial work done at the expense of the contravener recovered by adding the amount to the contravener's taxes.
- (5) The *Order* in 7.0(3) may be served in person to whom it is directed or by registered mail to the last known address of that person, in which case it shall be deemed to have been given on the fifth day after it is mailed.
- (6) If there is evidence that the *Person* that is publicly displaying the *Designated Weapon* or *Replica Designated Weapon* is not the owner

of the *Property* on which the *Designated Weapon* or *Replica Firearm* is being publicly displayed, the *Order* in 7.0(3) shall be served on both the *Property* owner and the occupant.

(7) If the *Property* owner referenced in section 7.0(6) does not reside at the *Property* and his or her address of residence is unknown and the *City* is unable to serve him or her in person, or by registered mail as per section 7.0(5), or if the *Order* cannot be served to the *Property* owner and occupant as per section 7.0(6), a placard stating the terms of the *Order* in 7.0(4) shall be placed in a conspicuous place on the *Property* and shall be deemed to be sufficient notice to the *Property* owner.

(8) If the *Person* to whom an *Order* under 7.0(3) is directed, fails to comply with that *Order*, the *City*, its employees, contractors, or authorized agents may do the work described in the *Order* and enter upon the *Property*, if necessary, at any reasonable time.

(9) No *Person* shall hinder or obstruct or attempt to hinder or obstruct *Municipal By-law Enforcement Officers* or *City* contractors who are exercising any powers or performing any duties under this By-law.

(m) to add sections 8.1, 8.2 and 10.1 as follows:

8.1 *Administrative Penalties*

(1) Instead of laying a charge under the *Provincial Offences Act* for a contravention of this By-law, a *Municipal By-law Enforcement Officer* may issue an *Administrative Penalty* to the *Person* who has contravened this By-law.

(2) If a *Person* is required to pay an *Administrative Penalty* under subsection 8.1(1), no charge shall be laid against that same *Person* for the same contravention.

(3) The amount of the *Administrative Penalty* for a first contravention under this By-law is \$500.

(4) A person who is issued an *Administrative Penalty* shall be subject to the procedures provided for in the *Administrative Penalties By-law*.

- (5) The amount of the *Administrative Penalty* for a second and any subsequent contravention under this By-law is \$750.

8.2 Cost Recovery and Unpaid Fines and Penalties

- (1) All expenses incurred by the *City* in doing the work as described in the *Order* as well as any related fees, shall be deemed to be a debt to the *City* and may be collected by the *City* or added to the tax roll and collected in the same manner as municipal taxes.
- (2) The treasurer of a municipality may add any unpaid fine or *Administrative Penalty* to the tax roll for any *Property* in the local municipality of which all of the owners are responsible for paying the fine or penalty and collect it in the same manner as municipal taxes.

10.1 Designated By-law

- (1) This is a designated by-law as per Schedule 1 of the *Administrative Penalties By-law*.

Voted in favour by City of Vaughan Council this 24th day of February, 2026.

Steven Del Duca, Mayor

Todd Coles, City Clerk

Authorized by Item No. 1 of Report No.10 of the Committee of the Whole.
Report adopted by Vaughan City Council on February 24, 2026.
City Council voted in favour of this by-law on February 24, 2026.
Approved by Mayoral Decision MDC 002-2026 dated February 24, 2026.
Effective Date of By-Law: February 24, 2026