

ARTICLE 55 CONTROL OF FIREARMS - AMEND ZONING BYLAW ARTICLE IX
(Citizen Petition Article)

In Section 2230, Appendix A, Table of Principal Use Regulations, add a line after “Marijuana Establishment” in Part C of the table which shows “N” all the way across the table and call it “Sales, Assembly, and/or Manufacturing of Firearms and/or Components thereof, Ammunition, and Explosives”. This amendment would make the Sales, Assembly, and/or Manufacturing of Firearms and/or Components thereof, Ammunition, and Explosives a prohibited use in all zoning district in the Town of Sudbury.

N = prohibited use

PRINCIPAL USE	A-RES	C-RES	WI	BD	LBD	VBD	ID	LID	IP	RD
C. COMMERCIAL										
29. Sales, Assembly, and/or Manufacturing of Firearms and/or Components thereof, Ammunition, and Explosives	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N

Submitted by Petition.

(Two-thirds vote required)

PETITION SPONSOR’S REPORT: The intent of this article is to regulate the manufacture and sale of guns and ammunition in Sudbury in the interest of public health and safety. The increasing access to firearms in our society is coupled with ever increasing death rates.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has relatively stringent gun laws but as we have seen they are not uniformly enforced and loopholes are always being exploited. Fortunately, the rate of gun deaths is not as high in Massachusetts as it is in some other states, but it is much higher than in many other countries. The ready access to guns everywhere risks violence and death, death both intentional and unintentional, by one’s own hand and by others.

Reduction in the demand for retail and industrial space in Sudbury means that much space languishes on the lease market, encouraging landlords to lease to tenants with unconventional or questionable business models in order to maintain any rental income at all. In the course of the last nine months we have seen a long series of news articles in the Boston Globe about a large nest of unconventional and illegal gun dealers in one building in Littleton operating in violation of State regulations and without

regular inspections by local police and Federal authorities. Some of these weapons have been used in criminal activity including straw purchases. This has led the Town of Littleton and its citizenry to orchestrate the sale and demolition of the entire building as a way of halting this unwanted activity.

This warrant article does not prevent hunters from loading ammunition in their own homes but it does ban the building and merchandising of firearms and ammunition within the Town's borders for commercial purposes. Further, it does not impinge on anyone's rights under the Second Amendment of the Constitution. However, individuals should not be tempted by ready access to firearms to spontaneously commit violence against themselves, classmates, or family members. The darkest impulses of the human soul should not be exploited for profit.

In Sudbury and in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts we look out for each other's health and welfare. If after each senseless act of gun violence that is splashed across the news, we ask "Why can't something be done about this horror?", the answer is it can, and this town bylaw amendment is part of our answer.

SELECT BOARD POSITION: The Select Board will report at Town Meeting.