



The Corporation of the Township of King Report to Council

From: Growth Management Department- Bylaw Services Division

Report Number: GMS-BY-2025-001

Date: Monday, April 14, 2025

Title: **Discharge of Firearms and Bows Bylaw- Request for Exemption- 6610 King Road**

Recommendation

1. That Council receive Report GMS-BY-2025-001 for information.
2. That Council deny the exemption request for discharge of firearms and bows at 6610 King Road.
3. That Bylaw Services review Section 12 of the Discharge of Firearm and Bows Bylaw 2014-04 to consider removing exceptions to discharge firearms within close proximity of Urban Residential Zones.

1. Report Highlights

- Mr. Gregory Aloia is requesting an exemption to the Discharge of Firearms and Bows Bylaw 2014-04, to allow for hunting at 6610 King Road.
- 6610 King Road is located within the Defined Area (“No Discharge Zone”).
- Bylaw Services Division does not support the request for an exemption.

2. Purpose

The Township of King, Bylaw Services Division has been approached with a request for an exemption to the Discharge of Firearms and Bows Bylaw [2014-04](#). The request is to allow the discharge of firearms and bows on 6610 King Road, in Nobleton, which is located within the ‘no discharge’ zone. This report outlines the reasons why Bylaw Services Division does not support this exemption request.

3. Background

The Bylaw Services Division received a request from Mr. Gregory Aloia of 69 Russell Snider Drive, Nobleton, asking for an exemption to the Discharge of Firearms and Bows Bylaw 2014-04 to allow for discharging of firearms and bows at 6610 King Road in Nobleton. He outlined that his intentions are to harvest turkey & deer with a crossbow when in season & rifle hunt coyote in accordance with all the proper hunting regulations, as they are a nuisance on the property.

6610 King Road is located between 10th Concession and Nobleview Road on the north side of King Road and is approximately 4 hectares in size. The property is owned by Gaetano Pania, who is the grandfather of Mr. Aloia.

Mr. Aloia has confirmed that there are chickens located on the property, however the owners do not possess the required valid Farm Business Registration Number. The Bylaw does have exceptions to allow for the discharge of firearms for the Protection of Property from nuisance wildlife that may be killed or harassed in accordance with the Ontario Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, or a permit issued under the Canada Migratory Birds Regulations. Mr. Aloia is permitted to discharge a firearm to protect the property and livestock from nuisance animals, such as coyotes, however there is no exception to allow for recreational hunting within the Defined Areas of the Bylaw (**Figure 1**).

Figure 1: By-law 2014-04 Exemptions, Section 12

Exceptions

12. This By-law shall not apply to the discharge of a *Firearm or Bow*:

- a) for the *Protection of Property* from nuisance wildlife that may be killed or harassed in accordance with the *Ontario Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act*, or a permit issued under the *Canada Migratory Birds Regulations*;

The property is zoned Greenbelt Natural Heritage (GNH) in part and Nobleton Village Reserve (NVR) in part by Zoning By-Law [2022-053](#). Both zones permit an “agricultural use” which would include keeping/raising chickens; farming; raising livestock. The area zoned Nobleton Village Reserve (NVR) are lands that could potentially be developed for urban purposes in the future. Further, this property (and 6570 King Road) is proposed to be re-designated to “Residential” through the Our King 2051 Official Plan Review currently in process.

In 2014, Council passed the Discharge of Firearms and Bows Bylaw 2014-04, which outlined Defined Areas where the discharge of firearms and bows in the Township of King is generally not permitted. These zones are urban areas, or lands that abut urban areas. Pursuant to Section 119 of the [Municipal Act](#), a municipality may, for the purpose of public safety, prohibit or regulate the discharge of firearms and bows and other similar devices. Council deemed it in the public interest to regulate the discharge of firearms and bows within the Township for the purposes of public safety. Under By-law 2014-04, “No Person shall discharge any Firearm or Bow in the Township upon lands within the Defined Areas.” (**Figure 2**)

Figure 2: By-law 2014-04 Prohibitions, Section 10

10. No *Person* shall discharge any *Firearm or Bow* in the *Township* upon lands within the *Defined Areas*.

Any person may make application to Council to be granted an exemption from any of the provisions of the By-law with respect to the discharge of firearms or bows. Council, by resolution, may grant or refuse to grant the exemption applied for, or may grant any exemption of lesser effect. In granting any exemption Council may include such terms and conditions as it deems appropriate.

4. Analysis

Bylaw Services does not support an exemption of the discharge of firearms and bows bylaw near urban areas due to concerns related to significant safety risks, environmental impacts, and community well-being concerns.

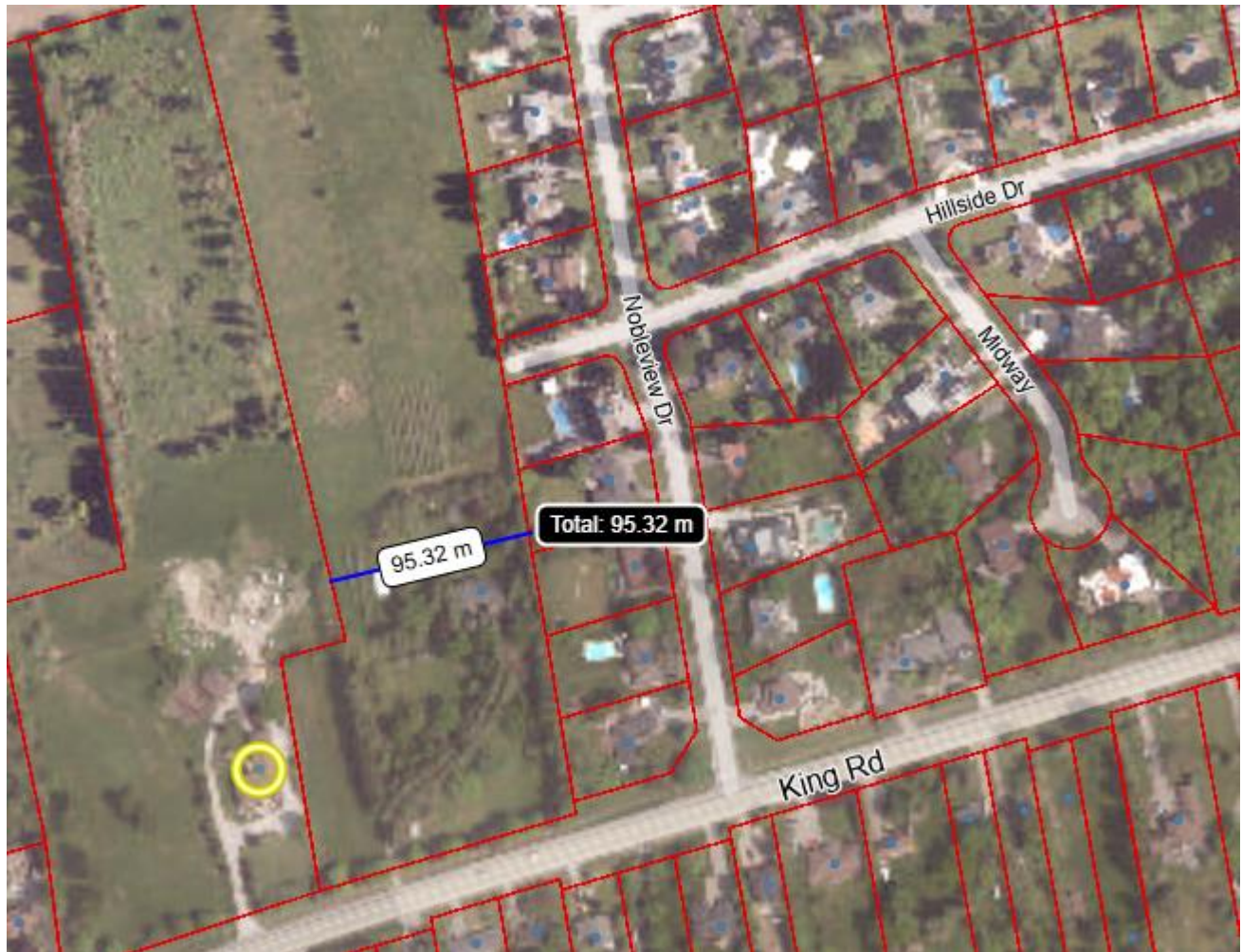
Risk to Residents

The primary concern regarding the discharge of firearms near urban areas is the safety of residents. Urban environments are densely populated, and the presence of residential homes, schools, playgrounds, and businesses increases the potential for accidental injuries or fatal incidents. Stray bullets or misfires could potentially result in tragic consequences, putting the lives and well-being of the community at significant risk.

Although discharge of firearms is permitted on 6610 King Road for the purpose of protection of property and livestock, By-law Services have determined the frequency of discharging a firearm for this purpose would be infrequent. By-law services are recommending a review of the Discharge of Firearms and Bows Bylaw 2014-04 Section 12, to consider removing the exception to allow for discharge of firearms and bows within close proximity of Urban Residential Homes. Permitting the discharge of firearms and bows for the purpose of hunting would allow for increased frequency in the discharging of firearms to occur.

6610 King Road is located 100 metres from Nobleview Road, which is the start of an urbanized area (**Figure 3**).

Figure 3: Aerial View of 6610 King Road



Environmental Impact- Wildlife Disturbance

Allowing the discharge of firearms near urban areas can negatively impact local wildlife and could potentially impact farm animals and domestic pets. The noise and disturbance caused by gunfire can disrupt the natural habitats and behaviors of animals, leading to stress and disorientation. Additionally, the presence of firearms can deter wildlife from inhabiting or passing through these areas, which can have broader ecological consequences.

Public Perception and Fear

The presence of firearms and the sound of gunfire can create a sense of fear and unease among residents. This fear can erode the sense of security and community cohesion, potentially causing people to be less likely to engage in outdoor activities or community events. A safe and welcoming environment is crucial for fostering a strong and vibrant community.

The discharge of firearms within close proximity to urban settings may create confusion and result in an increase of 911 calls to emergency response services. Law enforcement officers may have difficulty distinguishing between legal and illegal gunfire.

Should Council decide to grant the exemption to the Discharge of Firearms By-law at 6610 King Road, staff recommends to only allow the exemption during specified hunting seasons, and for conditions to be attached to the exemption with the ability to withdraw the exemption at any point if needed.

5. Financial Considerations

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

6. Alignment to Strategic Plan

The 2023-2026 Corporate Strategic Plan (CSP) was adopted by Council on June 12, 2023. The CSP reflects the priorities of utmost importance to the community and defines the obligations and commitments of the Township of King to its citizens and to the public. The CSP is aligned with the Townships long-term vision defined in the “Our King” Official Plan. The CSP also aims to ensure that staff initiatives focus on and work towards supporting King’s Vision, Mission and Values.

This report is in alignment with the CSP’s Priority Area(s), and/or associated Objective(s) and/or Key Results(s):

Priority Area: Not Applicable.

Objective: Enrich community well-being and make King the ideal place to live, work and play.

7. Conclusion

In conclusion, the Bylaw Services Division does not support an exemption of the Discharge of Firearms Bylaw at 6610 King Road which is near the Nobleton urban area due to the safety risks, environmental impacts, and community well-being concerns. Upholding the Discharge of Firearms Bylaw is essential in maintaining a safe and cohesive urban environment. The Township remains committed to protecting its residents and ensuring a high quality of life for all.

8. Attachments

- Attachment #1 - Exemption – Owner Authorization

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Approved for submission by:
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