

My name is Jessica Akers. I am here today to suggest that it is time for Harrison County to establish an Ordinance that regulates firearms discharge within platted subdivisions.

I reside in District 2 of Harrison County in a well populated neighborhood. One of my neighbors, Christopher Mullett, likes to shoot guns and has built an unregulated backyard gun range that is appx. 450 ft. from my property. He has metal targets and an ineffective dirt berm. He likes to shoot thirty round clips in rapid succession for 30 to 45 minutes. He does this three times a week or more and has been doing so for more than a year now. We have confronted him on multiple occasions regarding his projectiles leaving his property and coming through our trees onto our property where we are standing in our yard. This makes us fearful to be outside when he starts shooting. It is very loud. It creates stress. It creates anxiety. It is a danger to the neighborhood. You cannot enjoy your own property. It infringes our quality of life.

On February 24, 2018, Rhonda Thurman found a bullet on her back porch deck, appx. 275 feet from Mr. Mullett's gun range. Mrs. Thurman's two young granddaughters live there, also. That bullet was appx. 75 feet from their trampoline and appx. 75 feet from their swing set. A police report was filed.

During 2017,

The Harrison County Sheriff's Department ~~fully supports this potential ordinance~~ *During 2017,* they received 277 calls for Signal 27, Discharging Firearms. Of those calls, 6 of them were made within a two mile radius of Mr. Mullett's address. Citizens have limited options for stray bullets that come through their yard, or the noise is a nuisance, or you're in fear, whatever it may be. You can call the police and file a report. You then go to Justice Court and sign misdemeanor affidavits for Disturbance Of the Peace, or Nuisance under the Noise Ordinance. The defendant is found guilty or not guilty. The next day, it starts all over again because the law provides nothing to prevent this from occurring to begin with.

MCA 45-9-57 provides that 'A county may regulate the discharge of any firearm or weapon, other than a BB gun, within any platted subdivision.' Warren, Jackson, and Rankin Counties have already established ordinances that regulate gunfire in neighborhoods. Harrison County is more populated than

either of those. It's time for us to look out for our citizens that are being impacted by unregulated gunfire.

Some things to consider are:

- The rapid population growth
- Subdivisions are popping up everywhere
- Noise ordinance provides for 68 dB during daytime hours- guns average 156-164 dB
- Plenty of veterans reside in the area- how many have PTSD
- We're on well water, is the lead mined or is it getting into the water table
- Bullets travel a quarter of a mile to over two miles
- Guns today are very much different than what they used to be (ghost guns, bump stocks, etc.)
- Small arms fire is dangerous and an extreme nuisance
- The unregulated shooting is an infringement of our quality of life (fear, stress, anxiety, noise)

This is not about trying to take anyone's guns. Most of us have guns. It is about common sense measures to keep the community safe. There are multiple affordable regulated gun ranges in the area for people to enjoy. Thank you for your time and consideration.

EXHIBIT A Image of my neighborhood

EXHIBIT B Image of distance from range to deck where bullet was found (appx. 277 ft)

Image of distance from range to yard where bullets have come through (appx. 595 ft)

EXHIBIT C Images of bullet found on deck, trampoline, and swing set

EXHIBIT D Image of children that trampoline and swing set belong to

EXHIBIT E Incident Report 18-862 filed 2/24/2018

EXHIBIT F MCA 45-9-53 and MCA 45-9-57

EXHIBIT G Senate Bill 2857 Regular Session 2010