



University
of Houston
Clear Lake

July 12, 2016

Dear Colleagues:

The UH System Board of Regents accepted the Campus Carry Policy of the University of Houston-Clear Lake at its May 2016 quarterly meeting. The Campus Carry law, which is a result of the passage of Senate Bill 11, goes into effect on August 1, 2016, for all public universities in the State of Texas.

UHCL's Campus Carry Policy includes sections on the Purpose and Scope, Policy, Definitions, Supporting Policy Information and Procedures. Appendix 1 lists the Buildings, Areas and Spaces Meeting the Criteria for Establishment of Exclusion Zones. Signage for these exclusion zones will be put in place during July 2016. (Appendix 1 was created to facilitate the establishment, modification or elimination of an Exclusion Zone without requiring a change in the policy.)

I draw your attention to Section V - Procedures of the Campus Carry Policy which includes item "L." This section refers to the Establishment of Exclusion Zones and covers the process for establishing, modifying or eliminating gun exclusion zones, as well as the listing of the Criteria for Establishment of Exclusion Zones. Appendix 2 provides the Exclusion Zone Request Form by which an individual may request that an area be established, modified or eliminated as an exclusion zone. It is important to note that employees' offices generally do not meet the criteria to be an exclusion zone. However, offices located within areas designated as exclusion zones (e.g., Art School for Children and Young Adults) are included as part of the exclusion zone.

The Campus Carry law has brought forth opinions that span the spectrum from having no guns on campus, to having no restrictions on guns on campus for those who are concealed handgun license holders. The passage of Senate Bill 11 was actually a compromise piece of legislation due to the wide range of viewpoints of legislators about campus carry on university campuses. However, the law goes into effect August 1, 2016, and as a state agency UHCL must comply with the law.

For more information, take a moment to review the summary of Frequently Asked Questions about campus carry and the answers to those questions. UHCL Interim Chief of Police Allen Hill will be sending a subsequent email to our university community providing additional sources of information, as well as services provided by the UHCL Police Department to enhance the safety and security of UHCL.

I want to again thank members of the UHCL Campus Carry Work Group – Robin Aleman, Eric Bentley, Michelle Dotter, Nichole Eslinger, Allen Hill, Tiffany King, David Rachita, Mark Shermis, Bernadina Streeter and Chris Ward – for their work on development of the policy, as well as the faculty, staff and students who completed the online campus carry survey and/or presented their opinions on campus carry at our two town hall meetings.

If you have any questions, please contact me via email at staples@uhcl.edu.

Best regards,

William A. Staples
President