



The Grand Lodge of Ancient Free Masons of South Carolina  
William B. Rogers, Grand Master  
**EDICT 1**

February 3, 2016

Brethren

It has been Masonic Law in this Grand Jurisdiction that firearms or other weapons of any type are never to be allowed in a Masonic Lodge. Currently and during recent years the increasing attacks against innocent people in places of assemble in our Country and through the World continues to escalate. In response to these attacks, many organizations, including churches have begun to allow concealed handguns to be brought into their meetings by members with valid concealed weapon permits.

In consideration of the escalating violence and potential violence, we the Brethren of the South Carolina Grand Jurisdiction must now focus on the protection of our Brethren during our meetings and reconsider the ban on handguns in our Lodges.

By the power in me vested as Grand Master of Masons in South Carolina, I hereby permit the Worshipful Master of each Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction, at his own discretion, to appoint a Security Committee. The Committee Members are to be chosen from his Lodge members, who attend regularly, hold a valid South Carolina Concealed Weapons Permit (CWP) or is a Current Law Enforcement Member and who are willing to serve. The Worshipful Master may select three or more from the Security Committee to bring a concealed firearm to all Lodge meetings. Should a selected member be unable to attend a meeting, an alternate Security Committee member should be assigned for that meeting by the Worshipful Master.

All of the Security Committee Members will be immune from Charges regarding the breach of the teachings of Masonry in Code Section 248, so far as "Bring things Offensive or Defensive into the Lodge". In all cases, firearms must be concealed and no long guns, e.g., rifles will be permitted. A member shall not be armed while participating in the conferral of Degrees.

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William B. Rogers".

William B. Rogers  
Grand Master