I. PURPOSE & INTENT

In order to maintain compliance with Chapter 790 (Weapons and Firearms) of the Florida Statutes and to maintain a safe academic environment, the University of South Florida System (USF System) provides this Policy for information regarding the use, storage and possession of weapons on USF System property, with limited exceptions.

II. STATEMENT OF POLICY

---Applicability

A.

Except for law enforcement officers, this Policy is applicable to all members of the USF System community, including all students, faculty, staff, visitors, contractors, and guests, at any USF System campus, facility, or event.

B. Prohibition

In accordance with Sections 790.115 and 790.251, Florida Statutes, individuals are prohibited from possessing firearms on USF System property except as provided by Florida law, including 790.25(5), Florida Statutes.

In addition to firearms, the USF System also prohibits the possession of all other weapons on USF System property, other than common pocket knives, legitimate tools appropriately used in authorized work on campus, and other limited exceptions defined in this policy.

This prohibition includes weapons, regardless of ownership, located anywhere on a USF System campus or facility or at a USF System event, including on one’s person, in an office, in a University residence hall, or other on-campus residence. Chapter 790, Florida Statutes, regulates the possession of all other weapons on USF System property.

C. Exceptions

Notwithstanding the foregoing, weapons are permitted under the following limited circumstances:
1. ROTC cadets, under the direct supervision of ROTC cadre, may possess firearms under limited conditions as approved by the appropriate campus representative as identified in section II.D., below. However, before each instance when a real or simulated firearm could be made visible to the public, ROTC will specifically notify the appropriate campus representative identified in section II.D., below.

2. Non-functioning antique display weapons may be used for classroom instructional purposes with the prior approval of the Provost and/or appropriate Regional Chancellor and notification to the appropriate campus representative identified in section II.D., below.

3. Individuals may be permitted to store firearms in areas designated by the University Police only at University Police Stations that are equipped to provide storage. Firearms must be unloaded when on USF System property, whether in storage or in transit to or from storage. Authorization must be acquired from University Police for possession of the firearm while traveling between the designated storage facility and the campus perimeter. Individuals shall contact University Police regarding storage prior to transporting firearms on any USF System property.

4. Individuals may carry a self-defense chemical spray or stun gun as provided by Florida law, which is a device carried solely for the purposes of lawful self-defense that is compact in size, designed to be carried on or about the person, and contains not more than two ounces of chemical.

5. Scuba divers, whether an employee or student, engaged in underwater research may carry a diver’s knife in accordance with international standards for scuba divers and, if necessary, a spear gun for specimen collection during the time when the employee/student is engaged in underwater research for the University.

6. Herd of Thunder Athletic Bands members may possess simulated firearms for auditions, rehearsals, and performances as approved by the appropriate campus representative as identified in section II.D., below. However, before each instance when a simulated firearm could be made visible to the public, Athletic Bands will specifically notify the appropriate campus representative identified in section II.D., below.

Any other exceptions to this policy must be approved in writing by the Vice President for Administrative Services or appropriate Regional Chancellor and notification to the appropriate campus representative identified in section II.D., below.
D. Procedure

Any weapons found on a USF System campus or facility may be confiscated by appropriate law enforcement officers. Reports of any unauthorized weapons or other violations of this policy should be made to the appropriate campus representatives, as follows:

1. USF Tampa Chief of University Police;
2. USF St. Petersburg Chief of University Police;
3. USF Sarasota-Manatee Associate Director of Administrative Services

Notification should also be given to the Vice President for Administrative Services or appropriate Regional Chancellor. Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action and criminal prosecution by appropriate authorities.

Authorized and signed by:

Sandy Lovins, Vice President, Administrative Services
Judy Genshaft, President