

# **Authorization to Carry a Firearm – Law Enforcement Officer**

## **Ryman Hospitality Properties, Inc. Entertainment Venues**

**Ryman Hospitality Properties (RHP) Venues:** Ryman Auditorium, Grand Ole Opry House, Ole Red.

**Law Enforcement Officer:** Law Enforcement Officer (LEO) is defined as (1) a person who is a full-time employee of the State of Tennessee or the United States of America in a position authorized by the laws of the State of Tennessee to carry a firearm and to make arrests for violations of some or all of the laws of this state, (2) a full-time police officer who has been certified by the peace officer standards and training commission of the State of Tennessee (TNPOSTC), (3) a commissioned reserve deputy sheriff within a county within the State of Tennessee as authorized in writing by the sheriff, or a commissioned reserve or auxiliary police officer as authorized in writing by the chief of police within a city within the State of Tennessee, or (4) any other person defined as an LEO under TCA § 39-17-1350.

### **Firearms are ONLY permitted inside RHP venues under the following circumstances:**

- Uniformed, on-duty LEOs having jurisdiction within Metro Nashville-Davidson County, Tennessee.
- Active, TNPOSTC certified, uniformed LEOs who are attending an event and are assigned an active role specifically linked to the event.
- Federal, State or local plainclothes LEOs who are working in an official capacity.
- Trained and identified LEOs employed by RHP venues.
- Off-duty LEOs who have complied with the requirements below.

### **Off-Duty LEOs:**

- LEO must be currently employed with a City, County, State or Federal Agency of the type outlined in the definition of Law Enforcement Officer above.
- LEO must file a written request to bring a firearm onto an RDP venue at least **72-hours** prior to the event using the attached form entitled **RHP Request for Authorization to Carry a Firearm**.
- RHP Director of Safety & Security or designate will verify the active status of the LEO, including if applicable through the appropriate LEO clearinghouse, prior to the LEO's arrival to the event, and will provide evidence of verification. RHP reserves the right to refuse verification in its sole discretion.
- Immediately upon arrival, the LEO will present evidence of verification provided by RHP along with valid LEO identification, and the LEO will then be directed to the on-duty RHP-engaged Law Enforcement Officer who will confirm identity of the LEO against the submitted request.
- The LEO will then be issued a wrist-band identifier, and the LEO's seat information will be noted.

### **Failure to Comply with Procedures:**

Off-duty LEOs who have not been verified in advance or who do not comply with the above procedures are **not** authorized to carry any firearm inside RHP Venues. If discovered, the on-duty venue Police Officer will be summoned. The LEO will be given an opportunity to secure the firearm in an RHP provided firearm locker (under on-duty police escort) or asked to return the firearm to their vehicle. If the off-duty LEO questions the request to secure their firearm, the Building Manager on Duty (BMoD) in the presence of the on-duty venue Police Officer will explain the RHP corporate policy directive, and the off-duty LEO will be asked once again to secure the firearm or return the firearm to their vehicle. ***Failure to comply with this directive will warrant refusal of admittance into, or removal from, the venue.***

**Off-Duty LEO Request for Authorization to Carry a Firearm**  
**Submit within 72-Hours of the Event Date**

Officer Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

LEO Department: \_\_\_\_\_

LEO Office# \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile# \_\_\_\_\_

Venue (select one): \_\_\_\_\_ Ryman Auditorium \_\_\_\_\_ Grand Ole Opry House

Event Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Event Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Seat Location: Section \_\_\_\_\_ Row: \_\_\_\_\_ Seat# \_\_\_\_\_ or General Admission Floor \_\_\_\_\_

*Attach a copy of your LEO identification card with your photo to this form.*

**Ranking officer verification that the off-duty officer is in good standing and is current in his/her law enforcement firearms training.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name                      Rank                      Signature                      Date

**LEO Agreement:**

I agree not to consume alcohol or other intoxicating substance while attending this event. \_\_\_\_\_  
Initials

I will conform to the RHP requirements to check-in with the on-duty the Law Enforcement Officer for verification of my identity. \_\_\_\_\_  
Initials

I will wear the issued LEO identifier wristband during the entire event. \_\_\_\_\_  
Initials

I will notify the on-duty LEO if I depart the facility before the conclusion of the event. \_\_\_\_\_  
Initials

**A complete request must be received no less than 72-hours prior to the event date.**

Send the completed form by email [RGrimes@rymanhp.com](mailto:RGrimes@rymanhp.com) or FAX (615.316.6730). Notification of authorization will be confirmed by email provided.