POINT BLANK

STRAIGHT TALK
ABOUT WHAT YOU
CAN DO TO
PRESERVE YOUR
RIGHT TO KEEP AND
BEAR ARMS



March 2012 Volume XXXVII No. 3

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CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR THE RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS

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CCRKBA v. EMANUEL OVER REGISTRATION

The Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms has squared off against anti-gun Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, over his proposal to register every handgun in the State of Illinois, and slap a \$65 per gun fee on the process.

Emanuel, the former White House chief-of-staff for President Barack Obama follows a long line of anti-gunners in his campaign for gun registration. He claimed the registration scheme would help parents, police officers and community organizations, but one state lawmaker, Democrat Rep. Brandon Phelps of Harrisburg, was having none of it.

Phelps told the *Chicago Tribune* that the proposal was "a slap in the face of every law-abiding gun owner."

No sooner had news broken about Emanuel's proposal than did CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb fire back.

"This is Rahm Emanuel's childish strategy of striking back at the Second Amendment," Gottlieb said. "Chicago lost before the Supreme Court in the landmark *McDonald* case, and its horribly written handgun ordinance has also been rejected by a federal appeals court.

"Because he is on the losing end of the gun rights battle," Gottlieb continued, "Mayor Emanuel now wants to take out his frustration on every law-abiding gun owner in Illinois."

The late Mayor Richard J. Daley (the first Mayor Daley) was an ardent advocate for a national ban on handguns. That idea was rejected out of hand by most of the country, but in Chicago, it ultimately led to a ban on legally-owned handguns inside the city under then-Mayor Jane Byrne, starting in 1982. It did not stop criminals from packing guns illegally.

The Byrne Ban simply put a moratorium on new handgun registrations inside the city, and it remained in effect until June 2010, when the U.S. Supreme Court incorporated the Second Amendment to the states via the 14th Amendment. Within 24 hours, the city had adopted a new handgun law that was so bad it immediately drew legal challenges.

When Emanuel became mayor, he did nothing to calm the city's furious attempts to dance around the Supreme Court ruling. This was no surprise to Gottlieb, who noted that the mayor has a history of opposing gun rights.

"Rahm Emanuel is a both a product, and a philosophical poster child, of two anti-gun administrations," Gottlieb observed. "He served in both the Clinton and Obama administrations, always as point man on gun control initiatives. He does not seem to grasp the reality that American citizens have a constitutionally-protected civil right to keep and bear arms for their personal protection." Page 2 March 2012

CCRKBA IN WIN OVER SEATTLE GUN BAI

When the Washington State Supreme Court turned thumbs down on a petition for review by the City of Seattle in its appeals court defeat of the city's attempted parks gunban, the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms was elated.

CCRKBA was a party to that lawsuit with three other organizations and five individual citizens. The legal action was launched to protect and enforce the state's preemption act.

The city lost at the trial in King County Superior Court in early 2010, and then by a unanimous decision at the Division 1 Court of Appeals last October. Rather than accept the appeals court ruling, Seattle Mayor Mike McGinn, a member of Mayors Against Illegal Guns (MAIG), persisted and pushed for a Supreme Court appeal.

"We are proud that the State Supreme Court panel, led by Chief Justice Barbara Madsen, unanimously rejected Seattle's flagrant attempt to override state law and violate the civil rights of citizens living in or visiting the city," said CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb. "Mayor McGinn and the City Council should be ashamed that they pursued this pipe dream in an effort to turn the city into a banana republic. By letting the appeals court ruling stand, other anti-gun officials in city and county governments are on notice that they simply cannot ignore state law."

This has been a lengthy court battle that began in the fall of 2009, but has roots in a shooting incident at Seattle's Folklife Festival in May 2008.

Then-Mayor Greg Nickels, a founding member of MAIG, initially wanted to ban guns on all city property, but in a letter to State House Speaker Frank Chopp, he admitted the city did not have that authority under Washington's model preemption act, which was first adopted in 1983.

In August 2009, Nickels did not make it through the mayoral primary election. Several reasons were cited, including his effort to ban guns, but in the final days of his administration, he allowed the parks department to enact a regulatory ban as an administrative rule, thinking this would be a way to skirt the preemption law.

Attorney General Rob McKenna issued an opinion that this would violate the law, but Nickels - despite a warning from CCRKBA that it would sue - went ahead with the ban, anyway. Within days, CCRKBA was in court with several partners.

"We weren't about to let Seattle become a political gulagin the middle of Washington State," Gottlieb told Point Blank in retrospect. "Nickels must have thought we were bluffing, because it took a couple of days for us to prepare the paperwork and work with the other plaintiffs. We actually had people volunteering to be part of the lawsuit. It was simply awesome."

Nickels was succeeded in office by McGinn in 2010, and the city lost at the trial court. McGinn supported the ban, so he and City Attorney Pete Holmes filed an appeal. It took more than a year for the appeals process, and another six months for an opinion from the appeals court panel, and when it came down unanimously against Seattle, Gottlieb said "that should have ended it."

Anti-gunners are persistent, however, and Seattle appealed to the state high court. Led by Chief Justice Barbara Madsen, the Supreme Court unanimously rejected Seattle's review request, allowing the appeals court ruling to stand.

"Seattle has already announced that it will lobby the State Legislature in Olympia in 2013 to change the preemption law," Gottlieb said.



"Straight talk about what you can do to preserve your right to keep and bear arms."

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COLORADO SUPREME COURT RULING HAILED BY CCRKBA

When the Colorado Supreme Court ruled that the University of Colorado cannot ban firearms because of the state's Concealed Carry Act, it was hailed by the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms.

The court remanded the case back to the lower courts for action consistent with the ruling.

CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb has been a supporter of Students for Concealed Carry on Campus (SCC) since it was formed in April 2007. He said the Colorado high court ruling was a victory not only for gun rights, but for campus safety. More than 200 college and university campuses around the country reportedly allow qualified students to carry on campus, and there have been no deaths or injuries reported that involved any of them.

Gottlieb's sentiments were echoed by Al Baker, the legal liaison for SCC.

"The court upheld what we knew to be true all along," Baker said, "that public colleges and universities in Colorado are bound not only by the state constitution but also by the Concealed Carry Act from 2003. Today's decision also sends a message to other public colleges and universities in this county that Students for Concealed Carry will persist in the fight to restore reasonable firearm policies which afford licensed adults the same personal protection on campus they already enjoy in off-campus."

Over the past five years, Gottlieb has invited SCC representatives to the annual Gun Rights Policy Conference, and has worked with the group in other ways.

"College campuses are not crimefree zones," Gottlieb observed. "Despite efforts to create an image of safety, campus officials cannot guarantee it. The Colorado ruling also clarifies that campus officials cannot simply ignore state statute."

"Gun-free policies are an open invitation to psychopaths," concurred David Burnett, national SCC spokesman. "Signs on the doors are an unenforceable lie that only robs licensed citizens of their ability to defend themselves. Until colleges can guarantee our safety, they can't criminalize self-defense."

"We expect other colleges to comply with the court's ruling," Burnett added. "If they refuse to adopt more reasonable policies, we may explore litigation against them as well."

CCRKBA REBUTS WA ANTI-GUN EFFORT

When Washington Ceasefire – the Evergreen State's most vocal anti-gun organization despite its small size – 5,000 members – launched a \$50,000 advertising campaign to convince people they should not have firearms in their homes, the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms quickly countered the effort.

Ceasefire's campaign involved billboard advertisements on 50 Metro buses in King County and 50 more in neighboring Snohomish County, the state's most populous counties. It simply argued that people should "think twice" about having a gun in their home, using the discredited statistic that a gun in the home is "22 times more likely" to harm an innocent person than an intruder.

Timing is everything, however, and Ceasefire could not have started their

campaign at a worse moment. The same day their effort was launched, local news headlines were reporting that a recently-released sex offender had been arrested in Seattle's University District, where he allegedly had tied up the six female occupants of a house after threatening them with a knife.

Seattle's KOMO News interviewed CCRKBA Communications Director Dave Workman, who said, "There are over a million gun owners in this state, (and) 353,000 plus people have active concealed pistol licenses, so I'm not sure a campaign like this is going to accomplish much."

In early 2011, CCRKBA launched a nationwide billboard campaign that noted more than 2,100 Americans use a firearm every day in self-defense, usually without a shot being fired.

The message was simple: "Guns Save Lives"

Ceasefire President Ralph Fascitelli had suggested in an interview that people should arm themselves with a knife or baseball bat.

But the arrest of convicted rapist Robert Hitt, less than two months after his release from prison, helped CCRKBA put Ceasefire's poor logic in its proper perspective.

Writing in his on-line column, Workman observed: "There should be another ad campaign, one bearing the likeness of, say, another Robert – Theodore Robert Bundy – and his soulmate Gary Ridgway, with this message: 'Think twice about owning a gun. Washington Ceasefire wants these men to have a safe working environment when they visit your wife and daughter'."

IOWA DEMS FLEE CAPITOL TO AVOID GUN RIGHTS VOTES

Soon after Democrats in Iowa's House of Representatives fled the capitol building to avoid a debate on two pro-gun-rights measures, the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms took them to task for their legislative cowardice.

Democrats defended their departure, claiming that they had been "double-crossed" by the timing of the debate. They argued that they hadn't been allowed time to write amendments to the legislation. A source in the House told the Des Moines Register, however, that the caucus had already offered at least one amendment before they fled.

"Once again," said CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb, "Democrats have painted themselves as the party of gun control by disappearing rather than debating measures to strengthen the firearm civil rights of Iowans."

Iowa's House Joint Resolution 2009 proposes an amendment to the state constitution that includes a specific right to keep and bear arms tenet. House Bill 2215 is a measure that would expand the use of force to include lethal force, in the resistance of an attack in which someone was afraid of grave bodily harm or death. Most states have specific constitutional provisions addressing the rights of individual citizens to keep and bear arms. Likewise, most states recognize the right of self-defense can include the use of deadly force in certain circumstances, and many states have adopted so-called "standyour-ground" laws, which are often erroneously referred to as "Castle Doctrine" laws.

"We are disappointed," Gottliebsaid, "that once again Democrats choose to be disingenuous about ducking out on gun owners. It is a sad example of legislative cowardice, since both bills will likely pass the Republican-controlled House. Iowa's Democrat caucus can't run away from that and live in denial."

In the middle of the controversy, Iowa Democrat Party Chairwoman Sue Dvorsky was quoted by the Des Moines newspaper alleging that both pieces of legislation were "dangerous bills." This stunned Gottlieb.

"There is nothing dangerous about protecting a civil right already delineated in several state constitutions and the Bill of Rights," Gottlieb observed, "nor is there anything dangerous about expanding the self-defense rights of Hawkeye State citizens. Democrats are living in denial if they think they can delay these measures into obscurity."

CCRKBA MONITORS AZ BILL TO ALLOW CAMPUS CARRY

The Citizens Committee for the Right to keep and Bear Arms was closely monitoring legislation in Arizona that would allow students over 21 years of age, and faculty to carry concealed firearms on state university campuses if they have a permit.

CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb was one of the earliest supporters of Students for Concealed Carry on Campus following the Virginia Tech shooting in 2007.

Gottlieb has made sure SCCC representatives are always invited to

participate on panel discussions at the annual Gun Rights Policy Conference, which CCRKBA co-sponsors.

Under Arizona Senate Bill 1474, guns would be allowed on university and college campuses, but school officials could prohibit firearms in certain places, including school buildings and sports stadiums, provided they post signs noting that those facilities are off-limits.

The legislation is sponsored by State Sen. Ron Gould, a Lake Havasu Republican.

Almost immediately, Gould's legis-

lation came under fire from antigunners, who argued that "guns do not belong on campus." They raised one of the oldest and most tiring arguments early in the debate: Guns on campus will "hinder the free expression of ideas."

According to published reports, there is support in the Legislature for the measure. State Sen. Sylvia Allen (R-Snowflake) doubted that guns on campus would be a problem. She told a newspaper that "guns are not the problem, people are."

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NY GUN LAW VICTIM FIGHTING BACK

A former Marine whose honesty landed him in hot water with New York's gun law, is fighting back and his story has gotten the attention of the *New York Post*, which dubbed the administration of the gun laws "a nonsensical crapshoot."

Ryan Jerome is an Indiana resident who traveled to New York City on business, and he brought his legally-licensed pistol along because he mistakenly believed that his Indiana gun license was recognized. Jerome is in the process of setting up a business dealing in gold and jewelry, so having a firearm for personal protection makes sense.

Before departing for New York, he checked on-line with a popular concealed carry website and apparently misunderstood information he read about license reciprocity. Indiana recognizes New York carry permits,

but New York does not recognize Indiana's.

When Jerome visited the Empire State Building, he asked a security officer there where he could check his firearm. He was arrested.

Originally charged with a felony, Jerome was subsequently offered a "plea bargain" by Assistant District Attorney Joseph Davis that reduced the charge to a misdemeanor. But that's not good enough for defense attorney Mark A. Bederow, who said in a letter to Davis that all charges against his client should be dropped. Even a misdemeanor conviction could cost Jerome his Indiana carry permit, and jeopardize his ability to operate his new business, the *New York Post* indicated.

The Jerome case is not the only recent problem encountered by law-abiding, albeit careless, armed citizens when traveling to New York. Another incident, involving a Tennessee woman who was arrested at the Ground Zero memorial, also made news and got the attention of Alan Gottlieb, chairman of the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms.

Whatis particularly troubling about such cases is that New York officials so steadfastly defend their gun laws even though they know that these laws are ensnaring honest people, while criminals seem to continually get a pass.

Authorities in New York continue to oppose federal legislation that would mandate recognition of all concealed carry licenses and permits, same as states now honor driver's licenses. That legislation, HR 822, is languishing in the Senate following an overwhelming House vote.

CITIZEN ACTION PROJECT

While the mainstream media focuses on national politics and the upcoming presidential election, we need to remember that most firearm-related laws are passed at the state level. State legislatures typically have two chambers, an upper chamber usually called a state Senate, and a lower chamber called a state House or Assembly. Most states legislatures meet part-time, conducting relatively short sessions of two to four months, beginning in January or February.

Your state legislature is likely now in session. This is where the majority of gun laws are written, and this needs to be your focus in the immediate future. All state legislatures maintain web sites where you can obtain contact information about your legislators and information about bills under consideration. Links to each states' web sites can be found at http://thomas.loc.gov/home/state-legislatures.html Just click on your state and it will take you to that state's legislative home page.

Then click on the "find your legislator" link on most of these sites. Now is the time to take a few moments to send your legislators (Senator and Representatives, Assemblypersons or Delegates as appropriate) a brief letter. Ask them to keep you informed about any bills filed pertaining to the firearms issue (or any other issue of interest). This is a basic constituent service offered by ALL legislators. Once you know what bills are filed, you can then write back and state your position on these bills and ask for their support.

No internet access? Don't despair! Contact information for all of your elected officials, federal, state and local, may be found in the blue "government" listings in the front of your telephone directory.

NJ MAYOR IS MARCH GUN RIGHTS DEFENDER

When Sussex, NJ Mayor Jonathan Rose was first elected, it didn't take long for Mayors Against Illegal Guns – the group launched by anti-gun New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Boston Mayor Tom Menino – to invite Rose to join.

He turned them down flat.

Rose, 32, is an independent computer consultant and serves only as a part-time mayor of Sussex, a community in northwest New Jersey. He grew up in that area, and became something of a true believer in firearms ownership for defensive purposes after purchasing his first house.

He told Point Blank that about eight years ago, he bought a "fixer-upper" houseand began working on it. He arrived one day to work on it and found that someone had broken in and stolen his mechanic's tools. He notified the police and learned of other residential burglaries in the neighborhood, and he also got a warning: The thieves would probably come back for his valuable tools.

So, Rose decided to spend the night in his new home, and found himself kept awake wondering what he would do if the burglars showed up.

"Iborrowed my father's 12-gauge shotgun," he recalled.

According to Rose, "For the first time, I realized the comfort that could come from knowing that you can defend yourself, and I saw that firearms were for more than just hunting."

Thus began a transformation for Rose, who was familiar with firearms from his days as a youth when he went hunting. But the



Sussex, NJ Mayor Rose

use of firearms for personal protection had never before been on his mind.

Now, he proudly reports, Mayor Rose has concealed carry permits from both Florida and Connecticut.

"I don't have one in New Jersey," he lamented, "because it is virtually impossible to get one here."

Instead of a membership in MAIG, he has opted for memberships in national gun rights organizations.

Mayor Rose was born in Sussex County, about an hour from New York City. When he was 10 years old, he passed the New Jersey hunter education course with help from his parents and his aunt and uncle. That Christmas, hidden behind the couch, "just like in A Christmas Story," he recalled, was a single-shot Winchester Model 370 shotgun in 20-gauge. For a young Jonathan Rose, "it was the greatest Christmas ever."

Rose attended High Point Regional High School, graduating in 1997. He was active in Boy Scouts and earned his Eagle Scout rank and became a Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow.

He put himself through Rutgers University in New Brunswick, N.J. earning degrees in Physics, Mathematics and Computer Science. After graduating, he started several businesses including a construction firm that specializes in historic renovations. He founded the computer business he now runs, calling it Farious Net Solutions. This business specializes in setting up networks for mid-size businesses, and also does cabling and general computer sales.

At age 24, Rose was appointed to fill an unexpired term on the Sussex town council, where he served for eight months. Defeated in the general election, he ran again the following year and won. He served two three-year terms on the council and last fall, he defeated the incumbent Republican mayor in the primary, and went on to win the general election unopposed.

Soon thereafter, he got an invitation to join the anti-gun Mayor's group.

Sussex Mayor Jonathan Rose may seem the rare public servant in New Jersey, but he noted that in his region, "neither the rural townspeople, nor their politicians, are afraid of guns in the good guys' hands."

Though he has a busy schedule as both a businessman and mayor, Rose still sets aside time for shooting, hunting and working with his hands. He even traveled to Hungary for a pheasant hunting excursion that was one of his most memorable experiences.

He is committed to supporting the gun rights cause, which makes him a logical recipient of this month's Gun Rights Defender award.

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Thanks to changes in Florida state law and a challenge from progun activists, gun owners now can legally carry their weapons at the Florida State Fair.

According to the Tampa Tribune, the state fair's policy banning guns from the fairgrounds was changed following complaints from activists and increased enforcement of state pre-emption laws. The fair's executive director told the paper this year's fair is the first time he can remember in his years running it where guns were allowed on the fairgrounds during the fair.

According to the Daytona Beach News-Journal, the 22-year old suspect was attempting to elude police after being spotted when his getaway attempt was foiled by a 64-year old woman who was packing a gun and used that weapon to hold the man for officers. The woman resided in the Daytona Beach neighborhood where police were searching for the man.

The man was charged with several crimes, including a pair of drug charges, and according to the paper, was booked and ultimately released on bail.

Super Bowl.

According to the Boston Business Journal, the group bought ad time on several stations that carried the big football game February 5 and aired a spot featuring the mayors of the two cities whose teams played in the contest, New York and Boston. Both mayors, New York's Michael Bloomberg and Boston's Thomas Menino, delivered a message calling for more anti-gun regulations.

It is not known how much the organization paid for the air time, but ad time during the Super Bowl has been known to cost into the millions of dollars per spot.



If you are a Georgia concealed carry permit holder, the state has good news for you.

According to the Associated Press, the state's attorney general announced the addition of two new states – Iowa and Wisconsin – to those which recognize Georgia's concealed carry permit.

These new additions bring the number of states which recognize the permit to 26, and gun owners in the two states now can also carry their guns within Georgia, according to the story, as state law says that states which honor the Georgia permit will have theirs honored within the Peach State.



A young Daytona Beach, FL, man wanted for car theft got a little more than he bargained for trying to escape the law.



It is not often you see the American Civil Liberties Union act on behalf of gun rights.

Well, that is exactly what has happened in Philadelphia, where the ACLU has filed a lawsuit against Philadelphia police on behalf of a gun owner who was harassed by officers while walking down a city street a little over a year ago.

According to the *Philadelphia Daily News*, the incident involving plantiff Mark Fiorino was posted by him on YouTube. Fiorino, who was legally carrying his weapon when the incident occurred, had been criminally charged, but those charges were later dropped.



The anti-gun Mayors against Illegal Guns organization promoted its message to TV watchers of the



There's some interesting numbers on long gun ownership coming from north of the border in Canada.

According to the *Toronto Star*, citing Canadian federal data, nearly 300,000 "nonrestricted" firearms as classified under Canadian law are registered within the city limits of Toronto. The paper reports these weapons are rifles and shotguns, and this came out as federal lawmakers are debating legislation which would change how these guns are tracked within the Canadian national gun registry.



The 27th Annual Gun Rights Policy Conference will be helpd September 28, 29 and 30, 2012 at the Hyatt Regency at the Airport in Oralndo, Florida.



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Come meet national gun rights leaders and your fellow grassroots activists at the 27th Annual Gun Rights Policy Conference (GRPC 2012) in Orlando, Florida. This is your once a year chance to network, get an insider's look and plan pro-gun rights strategies for the coming year.

Past GRPCs have outlined victory plans and made public the latest firearms trends. They allow you a first-hand chance to hear movement leaders and make your voice heard.

This year we'll take a look at critical issues such as: city gun bans, "smart" guns, concealed carry, federal legislation, BATFE policies, gun show regulation, state and local activity. We'll preview the upcoming Presidential and Congressional races and analyze Right to Keep and Bear Arms court cases.

The full roster of GRPC 2012 speakers has not yet been set. Past speakers have included: Alan Gottlieb, Joseph Tartaro, Eugene Volokh, Wayne LaPierre, Michael Reagan, Larry Elder, Cong. Joe Walsh, John Lott, Sandy Froman, Massad Ayoob, Tom Gresham, Alan Gura, Bob Barr, G. Gordon Liddy, Larry Pratt and many others. Check our web sites - www.saf.org or www.ccrkba.org for updates.

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Books, monographs and other materials—enough to start a Second Amendment library are free, as are Saturday luncheon, and Friday and Saturday evening receptions. Other meals, travel and lodging are to be paid by attendee. Hotel rooms can be reserved at the Hyatt Regency Orlando, Florida Airport at a special rate later in the summer. Registration and other details will be confirmed by email.

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