



Allegheny County Sportsmen's League Legislative Committee Report

October 2008 □ Issue 168

ALLEGHENY COUNTY SPORTSMEN LEAGUE ON THE INTERNET <http://www.acslpa.org>

Contacts: Legislative Committee Chairman, **Kim Stolfer** (412.221.3346) - activist@fyi.net

Legislative Committee Vice-Chairman, **Mike Christeson** - acslvchair@yahoo.com

Pro-Gun House Bill 1845 PASSES House and Senate

October 8th, [House Bill 1845](#), a pro-gun legislative package passed the State House and State Senate and is on the way to Governor Ed Rendell's desk for his signature.

This legislation contained four specific pro-gun provisions for Pennsylvania gun owners. Among the provisions was an "Emergency Powers" provision prohibiting any government agency from arbitrarily confiscating firearms during a state of emergency, such as occurred in New Orleans in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

Other important provisions include:

- Establishing lawful carry of a concealed firearm in state parks
- Funding for the acclaimed "Don't Lie For The Other Guy" program administered by the National Shooting Sports Foundation
- Emergency permitting system for concealed carry licenses for individuals who are under immediate threat

PLEASE thank your Senator and your Representative for supporting this important legislation and encourage the Governor to sign it with your e-mails and phone calls.

Our thanks to all of the gun owners who have supported us over the last two years in making this victory a reality!!

House Passes DC Gun Rights Legislation

by Dave Workman, Senior Editor
Voting 266-152, the House of Representatives with 181 Republicans and 85 Democrats in the majority passed a bill from

which the original language was stripped and in its place was substituted strong pro-gun language authored by a freshman Democrat from Mississippi.

The "National Capital Security and Safety Act" was passed despite a last-minute effort by the District of Columbia City Council to amend its own restrictive handgun registration regulations before Congress stepped in and took over gun regulation in the city. The city had originally adopted an ordinance allowing the registration of only revolvers, while still banning semi-automatic handguns and requiring trigger locks. The high court ruling in the Heller decision specifically noted that requiring trigger locks, to prevent the gun from being used until it is required for self-defense, is unconstitutional.

Some 50 Democrats signed on as co-sponsors of the bill, authored by Mississippi Rep. Travis Childers, that became the substitute language of the original HR 6842, which had been introduced by anti-gun Washington, DC Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton. She subsequently ended up opposing the measure with her name on it, even though as a delegate to the House, she cannot vote.

The bill, which still must pass the Senate and be signed by President George Bush, removes semiautomatic firearms from the District's long-standing definition of a machinegun. It also strips authority from the city council to regulate gun ownership, including a requirement that firearms be registered. The legislation also allows District residents to purchase handguns in neighboring Virginia and Maryland, while allowing the possession of unregistered firearms.

The city's effort to head off this House bill included a similar provision allowing semi-autos and removing them from the definition of "machinegun," according to The Washington Times. The city's ordinance still limits magazine capacity to 10 rounds.

The House measure, which had the support of the National Rifle Association, was in direct response to the deliberately complicated regulations initially adopted by the city after it lost the landmark Heller case that struck down the city's handgun ban. Not only did those first regulations enrage gunowners all over the country, they angered pro-gun members of Congress in both parties.

However, passage of the legislation in the House does not guarantee the bill will become law. What the vote did

accomplish was give several Democrats from conservative districts the ability to campaign as pro-gunners in tight races.

That much was recognized by the Second Amendment Foundation, which cautioned Democrats against feeling too smug about touting this single vote.

"Those Democrats are fully aware that chances of this bill getting through the Senate during this session of Congress are virtually nil," said SAF founder Alan Gottlieb, "but this issue gave them a chance to cast a pro-gun vote they can brag about on the campaign trail. You can bet your gun collection that Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid will block a vote on this."

Gottlieb also blasted the District council for essentially creating the problem and then scrambling to provide a fix before Congress stepped in.

He lauded the House for having "rightfully assumed responsibility for enforcing the Second Amendment in our nation's capitol city."

However, he was far less cordial to five Washington state Democrats who all voted against the bill. The Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms took to task Reps. Dicks, McDermott, Inslee, Larsen and Smith, all of whom joined a majority of Democrats to oppose the measure. In all, 145 Democrats and 7 liberal Republicans voted against the bill. [The New GUN WEEK](#), October 15, 2008

Republicans v. Democrats: **Party Platforms Steering Gun Rights** **Voters In 2008**

by Dave Workman, Senior Editor

Forget about Sen. Barack Obama's short but decidedly anti-gun voting history and Sen. Joe Biden's much longer pattern of supporting every gun control measure on Capitol Hill.

Ignore Sen. John McCain's record— with the notable exceptions of cosponsoring a controversial gun show bill and co-authoring a "campaign finance reform" law that infuriated gun rights activists—of opposing gun control on the grounds that it failed to reduce violent crime. And pay no attention at all to Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin's life membership in the National Rifle Association, and her background as an ardent big game hunter and angler.

Gunowners are paying more attention to the respective party platforms showing where Republicans and Democrats stand on the gun rights issue, and a careful reading of both position statements reflects a world of difference between where the parties stand.

In the Democrat document, the party donates 126 words to firearms rights.

"We recognize that the right to bear arms is an important part of the American tradition, and we will preserve Americans' Second Amendment right to own and use firearms," the party states. "We believe that the right to own firearms is subject to reasonable regulation, but we know that what works in Chicago may not work in Cheyenne. We can work together to enact and enforce commonsense laws and improvements – like closing the gun show loophole, improving our background check system, and reinstating the assault weapons ban, so that guns do not fall into the hands of terrorists or criminals. Acting responsibly and

with respect for differing views on this issue, we can both protect the constitutional right to bear arms and keep our communities and our children safe."

Republicans go a little farther and get considerably more focused on concerns of gunowners with their 185-word dissertation.

"We uphold the right of individual Americans to own firearms, a right which antedated the Constitution and was solemnly confirmed by the Second Amendment," the Republican platform explains. "We applaud the Supreme Court's decision in Heller affirming that right, and we assert the individual responsibility to safely use and store firearms.

"We call on the next president to appoint judges who will similarly respect the Constitution," Republicans continue. "Gun ownership is responsible citizenship, enabling Americans to defend themselves, their property, and communities.

"We call for education in constitutional rights in schools, and we support the option of firearms training in federal programs serving senior citizens and women," the GOP statement adds. "We urge immediate action to review the automatic denial of gun ownership to returning members of the Armed Forces who have suffered trauma during service to their country. We condemn frivolous lawsuits against firearms manufacturers, which are transparent attempts to deprive citizens of their rights. We oppose federal licensing of law-abiding gun owners and national gun registration as violations of the Second Amendment. We recognize that gun control only affects and penalizes law-abiding citizens, and that such proposals are ineffective at reducing violent crime."

Recently, in an opinion piece circulated to newspapers around the country, SAF founder Alan Gottlieb and this reporter noted that Democrats have finally brought to an end their 14-year-courtship of the nation's gun owners, with

this platform and by nominating Obama and Biden as this year's presidential and vice presidential candidates.

We noted that "instead of a goodbye kiss, there was a slap in the face; the political approximation of a domestic assault." [The New GUN WEEK](#), October 15, 2008

Ohio Supremes Strike Down City Park Gun Ban

In a narrow 4-3 ruling, the Ohio Supreme Court struck down a city ordinance in the city of Clyde that banned carrying concealed handguns in city parks, and upheld a state preemption statute that prohibits municipal governments from passing gun laws that are stricter than state law.

The case dates back more than four years. In January 2004, the General Assembly passed a concealed carry statute, spurred in no small part by a lawsuit filed against the city of Cincinnati by several Ohio residents with support from the Second Amendment Foundation.

Soon after the state concealed carry law took effect, the city of Clyde adopted an ordinance banning concealed handguns in city parks. In August 2004, Ohioans for Concealed Carry (OFCC) filed a lawsuit seeking to overturn the ordinance, and the trial court sided with the city. OFCC appealed, and while the case was being reviewed, the General Assembly enacted the

current statute, which specifically preempts the kinds of ordinances passed by Clyde in reaction to the 2004 statute.

The appeals court ruled against Clyde, and the city appealed.

The ruling, written by Justice Terrence O'Donnell with Justices Robert Cupp, Maureen O'Connor and Evelyn Stratton concurring, holds that in adopting the 2006 law, "The General Assembly could not have been more direct in expressing its intent for statewide comprehensive handgun-possession laws."

Additionally, the ruling establishes that there is "a distinction between public and private property" and that "public property is owned by the taxpayers and is accessible to all." This language precludes the ability of a municipal government from treating city property as if it were private property.

The court also said that the state preemption statute "provides a program to foster proper, legal handgun ownership in this state."

"The statute," wrote Justice O'Donnell, "therefore represents both an exercise of the state's police power and an attempt to limit legislative power of a municipal corporation to set forth police, sanitary, or similar regulations."

Ohio newspapers quickly noted that the ruling could have far-reaching implications for other cities. OFCC President Jeff Garvas told Gun Week that his organization will immediately advise other cities that have similar ordinances that they have an opportunity to start the repeal process or face legal action.

"We want to give them a chance," Garvas said, adding that he would much rather the cities live by the state high court's ruling than have to keep going back to court.

However, he also noted that this ruling has implications that go far beyond just the issue of concealed handguns in parks.

On a "second front," Garvas also said the issue of open carry is surfacing again, even though open carry is legal in the state, as affirmed by a state Supreme Court ruling. [The New GUN WEEK](#), October 15, 2008

AHSA Stumping For Anti-Gun Presidential Candidate Obama

by Dave Workman, Senior Editor

It's being repeated in the gun rights community by activists who have long been wary of the American Hunters and Shooters Association (AHSA)—the three year-old group that blustered its way into the political landscape by first attacking and then announcing it wanted to draw members away from the National Rifle Association (NRA)—"We told ya so."

Earlier this year, AHSA raised some eyebrows and left lots of heads shaking when it endorsed Illinois freshman Sen. Barack Obama as its choice for president of the United States in 2008. Lately, AHSA President Ray Schoenke, a former Washington Redskins football player and onetime unsuccessful Democrat candidate for Maryland governor, has been touring some key states, stumping for Obama.

He told a newspaper in Ohio that AHSA believes "gun rights should be protected," and that he doesn't think an Obama administration would go after gunowners.

But in the gun rights community, shooters are collectively scratching their heads, asking, "Isn't this the same Barack Obama who told a Pittsburgh, PA, newspaper earlier this year that he doesn't support concealed carry for private citizens?"

They also ask, "Isn't this the same Barack Obama who, as an Illinois state senate candidate, supported a ban on the manufacture and possession of handguns? The same man who suggested that the Washington, DC, handgun ban was reasonable? The guy who once sat on the board of the anti-gun Joyce Foundation?"

Why would a group touting itself as pro-gun, pro-hunting and pro-Second 1-thendment suggest that an anti-gunner like Obama would be acceptable for the nation's highest office, much less endorse the man? NRA and others call the AHSA an anti-gun group trying to camouflage itself in hunter orange.

While AHSA claims to be non-partisan and pro-gun, a review of its origin and activities with but a couple at weeks remaining before the election might be in order.

AHSA is a Democrat brainchild. When it first charged into the spotlight in April 2005, the website was reportedly licensed to DCS Congressional, founded by Gerry Kavanaugh, who had been an advisor to Sen. John Edwards, the now-disgraced former Democratic presidential candidate. DCS says on its own website that it "offers comprehensive Internet programs to Members of Congress, Democratic campaigns, advocacy organizations and state parties."

But in August of that year, the registration was officially changed to AHSA, according to an account on the [GunLawNews.com](#) website.

Among the AHSA's founders, one finds a varicose Democratic blue vein. Aside from Schoenke, who has contributed money to Handgun Control Inc., and a string of anti-gun politicians including Al Gore, Barbara Boxer, Barbara Mikulsd, Bill Clinton and Diane Feinstein, another founder is David Bonior, the former antigun Democrat congressman from Michigan's 10th District.

The AHSA advisory board includes Jody Powell, who served as White House press secretary for anti-gun Democrat Jimmy Carter.

Schoenke has taken the AHSA's clearly Democrat partisanship one step farther, appearing in a television advertisement for Obama, in which he contends "Barack Obama and John McCain will both make sure we can keep our guns. But what about keeping our jobs? Barack's got a real plan that invests in creating jobs here at home and cuts taxes a thousand bucks for working families."

Schoenke doesn't share details of that plan. Neither has Obama. However, the message is designed to scare blue collar hunters to vote for Obama in order to protect their jobs.

Until he stepped down in May of last year, Massachusetts anti-gunner John E. Rosenthal served as president of the AHSA Foundation. Rosenthal remains the Bay State's most vocal gun control proponent and president of "Stop Handgun Violence."

The NRA has long claimed that "AHSA was created with the specific intent to provide political cover for anti-gun politicians by allowing them to claim support from a 'sportsmen's' group." Now, with the group supporting Obama in key states including New Hampshire and Ohio, even Wikipedia, the online encyclopedia lists AHSA as a "pro-gun control" group.

On its website, the organization claims commitment to "supporting the right to keep and bear arms, protecting our

homes, and preserving our liberties" and promises to "vigorously defend" hunting and sport shooting.

In Ohio, according to The Chillicothe Gazette, the co-chair of the Ohio Sportsmen for McCain campaign wasn't buying it. Mike Budzik told the newspaper, "Obama is an enemy of the Second Amendment.

He's opposed to concealed carry laws, which we care about here in Ohio. His track record shows he is anti-gun, and (Sen. Joe) Biden is also the same."

AHSA says on its website that it supports "manufacturing standards for firearms to insure our 'tools' are safe." Firearms and ammunition manufacturing is already one of the more highly regulated industries in the country, operating under the standards of the Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers' Institute (SAAMI). Anti-gunners want firearms manufacturing to be subject to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, but SAAMI was, according to its own website, founded in 1926 at the request of the federal government.

The AHSA supports mandatory hunter safety training, but hunter education has been taught for many years in all 50 states, and the first program was created by the NRA in New York State in 1949. The basics of hunter education—now handled by state natural resource agencies under guidance from the International Hunter Education Association—still adhere to the original NRA-developed firearm safety guidelines.

The AHSA says it will "promote modern, scientific and friendly range development practices." The NRA literally wrote the book on range development and safety.

AHSA says it will "sponsor a variety of national, state and local shooting competitions and support and promote our Olympic shooting teams."

And among its other tasks, AHSA says it supports "mandatory and certified/ qualified training for all persons receiving a permit to carry concealed firearms with reasonable requirements for recertification."

Many states that mandate training require or accept an NRA training course for CCW qualification. However, this call for mandatory training might run into legal problems in such states as Washington, where there is no mandate presently, and the right to bear arms is protected by the state constitution.

Whether AHSA influences enough gunowners and hunters to vote for Obama, it's true purpose will be known in the months after the election. [The New GUN WEEK](#), October 15, 2008

FBI/NICS pushes 'Voluntary Appeal File' once again

by Gene Crum, Technical Editor

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) again is publicizing its 2004- vintage "Voluntary Appeal File" (VAF) for gun buyers screened by the NICS (National Instant Criminal System).

The Voluntary Appeal File is a system which attempts to keep a list of gun buyers who experience NICS approval difficulties due to identity theft, name confusions, etc. The VAF basically is a voluntary file of gun buyers who want to be partly pre-cleared when applying for the NICS background checks.

The FBI created the Voluntary Appeal File in 2004 when the NICS service repeatedly was having to deny immediate approvals and do in-depth verification-checks for the same acceptable buyers. The VAF was seen as a way to avoid wasting FBI administrative investigation resources while at the same time providing a public service.

The VAF was made voluntary because the NICS must destroy all purchaser identifying information within 24 hours of the gun dealer being notified that the transfer was approved. By being made voluntary, this excludes the VAF from the destruction regulations.

The VAF is open to anyone, who wishes to register themselves for potentially faster processing; however, the FBI expects most of the voluntary registrants to be people who have a name, and/or date of birth similar to that of a prohibited person. The FBI is providing applications, fingerprint cards, and instructions for completing and submitting the applications. At the NICS level, there is no fee or charge; however, some local police agencies may require a fee for doing the certified fingerprinting required for the application.

Documentation for the VAF can include court documentation, pardons, BATF Relief from Disabilities, etc. If an individual at some future date wishes to be removed from the VAF, this documentation will not be returned but can be destroyed on request, according to Nancy S. Brown, Acting NICS Section Chief.

VAF application and instruction packets can be obtained by calling the NICS Customer Service toll free at; 877-444-6427. [The New GUN WEEK](#), October 15, 2008

NYC Buys New Security For VA--FFL, Ends Suit

New York City had agreed to buy a security system, and computer log for Virginia gun shop in lawsuit resolution, according to Associated Press.

New York City will pay to install a better security camera system in a Virginia gun store that will make other changes to its sales practices, resolving a lawsuit the city filed two years ago.

The city will pay for a computer log for The Bob Moates Sport Shop of Midlothian, VA, that will alert sales clerks when a person attempting to buy a gun has made previous purchases of guns linked to crime. The store will buy its own equipment to help spot fake IDs.

Both sides said they were happy with the resolution.

The Virginia store was one of 27 gun shops in five states that the city sued in 2006. Mayor Michael Bloomberg claimed the shops were making it too easy for people to buy guns on behalf of criminals.

Moates was one of the last holdouts in the case.

Of the dealers who were sued, a majority entered into settlements in which they paid no money damages but agreed to have a court-appointed monitor supervise their sales for three years. A few of the stores closed. One declined to contest the suit but is hoping to have it thrown out in an appeals court.

Moates walked away with a slightly different outcome.

"Basically, we're pleased with the outcome," said Richard Gardiner, a lawyer for the shop. "We're getting an upgraded surveillance system at the city's expense."

Bloomberg also claimed victory.

"Our goal was never to put these dealers out of business. It was to improve compliance with federal laws," he said in a written statement.

He said the changes in sales practices at the stores would help prevent guns from being sold to criminals.

The lawsuit marked the first time that a big city sought to battle crime by going after gun dealers that had track records of selling guns later used to commit crimes. The case generated praise for Bloomberg from gun control groups but ridicule from gun rights advocates, who said the mayor was grandstanding for a possible presidential bid. [The New GUN WEEK](#), October 15, 2008

Finland Rejects More Gun Laws After Massacre

Global anti-gunners did not care to hear from Finnish officials who rejected the notion for more gun laws following a late-September school shooting that left nine people dead in the town of Kauhajoki, 180 miles north of Helsinki.

The gunman, identified as Matti Saari, later shot himself in the head.

According to the Associated Press and other news agencies, Saari had talked about the shooting on a video posted on YouTube. It was the second such shooting in Finland in a year. In 2007, a student named Pekka-Eric Auvinen also made a YouTube video and then gunned down eight people at a high school in Jokela before killing himself. One of his victims was the headmistress.

Saari reportedly had a temporary permit for a .22-caliber Walther P22 pistol that he reportedly got in August. He reportedly had been questioned by police about the YouTube video, but they did not revoke his gun permit, and released him.

Reports said Saari fired "several dozen rounds" during the shooting spree.

In response to the shooting, the Finnish government has only said it would raise the minimum age for purchasing firearms from 15 to 18 years. This would not have stopped Saari from getting a gun, as he reportedly is 22 years old. There are reportedly about 1.6 million guns in private hands in Finland, making it reportedly third in line behind the United States and Yemen in gun ownership by private citizens. [The New GUN WEEK](#), October 15, 2008

Another WA Female Officer Slain By Man `Under DOC Supervision'

by Dave Workman, Senior Editor

The slaying of a female US Forest Service (USFS) law enforcement officer last month by a man who was supposed to be under the supervision of Washington State's Department of Corrections (DOC) has intensified public outrage against that agency.

She is the fifth law enforcement officer killed in the past few years by someone under DOC supervision.

What makes the death of USFS Officer Kristine Fairbanks on a lonely national forest road Sept. 20 even more alarming is that two years ago, the man who killed her before he was killed by sheriff's deputies was something of a bogeyman in a controversy

that erupted over his then-estranged wife. She was a language arts teacher at a Thurston County public school who not only had a protection order against him, but carried a revolver in her purse as a defense against possible attack.

But that gun was spotted by a colleague who reported Nisqually Middle School teacher Mary Catherine Roe to school officials. She was suspended and eventually resigned, while her husband, Shawn M. Roe was ultimately charged and convicted with unlawful imprisonment and malicious mischief in 2007.

Mary Roe is now divorced and goes by her former name, Mary White. She told reporters two days after the shooting spree that Roe always had guns, despite statutes requiring him to give them up following his felony conviction.

Mary's mother also carried a handgun for a time after Roe had threatened her daughter, and the elder White also had a protection order against Roe. Press reports say he routinely violated and ignored those orders, harassing and stalking his ex-wife.

After the shooting, Mason County Chief Sheriff's Deputy Dean Byrd was quoted by The Seattle Times noting that Mary White had been "vindicated" by the events leading up to Roe's death.

"She was completely right," he said. "All of her fears were founded."

According to reports in several local newspapers, Shawn Roe had been in the Mason County jail earlier in the summer for failing to report to his probation officer, and for drinking alcohol. His sentence had been for 60 days, but 30 days of that was to be spent with an electronic home monitoring device. He finished the sentence on Aug. 10.

Roe was killed about seven hours after he murdered Fairbanks and took her pistol. When he died in a hail of bullets outside a convenience store, he was armed with three handguns, including the one he took from Fairbanks, and had been driving the pickup truck of a man he shot and killed sometime after the Fairbanks slaying. That man was identified as Richard Ziegler, a retired California corrections officer who had moved to Washington's upper Olympic Peninsula and was building a cabin. A rifle was found in the truck.

According to The Peninsula Daily News in Port Angeles, Roe may have been hit nine times by deputies identified as Andrew Wagner and Matt Murphy. They challenged Roe to raise his hands and surrender, and instead he fired at least one round before he was cut down. Murphy was armed with a rifle and the newspaper said he fired at least five rounds, while Wagner fired four times.

Fairbanks was well-liked and was married to an enforcement officer with the state Department of Fish & Wildlife. The couple had a 15-year-old daughter.

Two weeks prior to her slaying, another man under DOC supervision shot and killed a female Skagit County sheriff's deputy, along with five other people, and wounded three others before being taken into custody.

Roe had failed to meet with his corrections officer and a warrant had been requested for his arrest, but not issued.

The case was being investigated by the Clallam County Sheriff's Department, Washington State Patrol and the FBI. [The New GUN WEEK](#), October 15, 2008

Ohio's Top Gun Grabber Challenge Over Guilt If Innocence Remarks

Ohio's chief gun control activist Toby Hoover, executive director of the Ohio Coalition Against Gun Violence, apparently lost her perspective on the American justice system and one of its fundamental tenets, the presumption of innocence.

Quoted by The Post at Ohio University, in a story about the Buckeye State's new self-defense statute, Hoover told the newspaper that gunowners who shoot intruders in their homes should not be presumed innocent.

Hoover's group opposed the legislation, insisting that there are already sufficient protections in law for homeowners who shoot in self-defense.

"You should have to prove something," Hoover complained. "It should always be under the highest scrutiny when you're taking someone's life."

That got the attention of Chad Baus, co-chair of the Buckeye Firearms Association (BFA).

"While most people are familiar with the legal right to a presumption of innocence—being innocent until proven guilty—that exists in the modern nations, (Hoover) seems to be quite ignorant about the matter," he wrote on the BFA website.

Baus noted that the coalition's "primary source of funding comes from the anti-gun Joyce Foundation, for which

Barack Obama served on the board of directors from 1994 through 2002."

"Hoover, whose Wild West-type predictions about what would happen if Ohio passed a concealed carry law have failed to come true, has long been known for making radical anti-gun positions," Baus continued.

He noted that Hoover's website has a link that allows homeowners to download a poster designating someone's home (or business) a 'weapon-free zone.'" Baus jokingly refers to such posters as "rob me signs." *The New GUN WEEK, October 15, 2008*

CO Man Getting Seized Guns Back

A Grand Junction businessman who had more than 150 guns seized from his home and office during a raid last year was scheduled to have the firearms returned to him Sept. 16, according to Associated Press and The Vail Daily.

Mesa County SWAT teams took the weapons in a raid at Bill Martin's Al Repossessions on Nov. 15, 2007 after police received a tip that he was a felon in possession of weapons.

Local and federal prosecutors decided earlier this year not to pursue charges against Martin. *The New GUN WEEK, October 15, 2008*

Hindsight

Anti-Gun-Zealots Joined By Varied Church, Business Groups

by Joseph P. Tartaro, Executive Editor

There's an old bumper sticker that proclaims "God, Guns and Guts Made America Free."

Apparently, the anti-gun strategists and their cronies in the establishment business community, churches and the media have taken that slogan as cautionary advice. As a result, they are

attacking all three Gs, and they are using church and business organizations to do it. At the same time they advise against displays of courage and personal defense, telling Americans not to resist criminal attacks but to give the predators whatever they want, including your life.

Now as many Gun Week readers are aware, some churches have been major players in the anti-gun, anti-self defense alliance for some time. The Methodist Church, for example, has supported the anti-gun agenda and even provided free office space in Washington, DC. The Methodist Church has also backed other anti-gun alliances and coalitions, including the new God Not Guns Coalition, about which I will have more to report.

The Roman Catholic Church, through its US Conference of Bishops, has also espoused a variety of anti-gun initiatives over the past 40 or 50 years. And other local and national congregations of various denominations have undermined the moral right to self-defense by trying to turn God against guns.

The God Not Guns Coalition will be celebrating their Second Annual God Not Guns Sabbath on Sept. 26-28, 2008, the same weekend that national, state and local firearms civil rights activists will be gathering in Phoenix for the 23rd Annual Gun Rights Policy Conference.

According to the coalition's website, the God Not Guns Sabbath is an annual event that asks us to reflect on and respond to the epidemic of gun violence that kills nearly 30,000 Americans every year.

"Our challenge is to call people of faith to action, to awaken them to the spiritual issues at the core of gun violence and to give them the necessary tools to build vital gun violence prevention ministries in their congregations and communities," the coalition announced.

The God Not Guns Coalition says it calls on every congregation, synagogue, mosque, and gathering of people of faith to work toward a peaceable society where all children have the opportunity to grow and prosper, and where everyone can live without fear of being cut down by firearm violence.

Among the national campaign partners for the Gun Not Guns Coalition which were listed on the group's website are the following: American Ethical Union; American Jewish Congress; Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes Leadership Team; Disciples Justice Action Network; Equal Partners in Faith; Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; Hadassah The Women's Zionist Organization Of America; Lutheran Office for Governmental Affairs; Mennonite Central Committee, US; National Council of Churches of Christ in US; National Council of Jewish Women; Presbyterian Church (USA); Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism; The American Jewish Committee; Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations; United Church of Christ, Office for Church in Society, and the United Methodist Church Board of Church and Society.

In addition, the group lists scores of state campaign partners. Anyone can check out state and local church groups who are part of this coalition on their website: godnotguns.org.

Needless to say, the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence has been touting the God Not Guns Sabbath on its website.

The God Not Guns Coalition is just one faith-based anti-gun group. There are others, such as the

Chicago-based Covenant for Peace in Action, which includes, among others: Rev. Michael Adams, of St. Mary Star of Sea; Magdalene Bagdonas of Sisters of St. Cashmir; Sister Anita Baird of the Archdiocese of Chicago; Rev. Tony Bianchi of Bethel Mennonite Community Church; Rev. Betty Jo BirkhahnRommelfanger of Ravenswood Fellowship United Methodist Church; Walter F. Block, director of Fund Development St. Mary of Nazareth Hospital; Rev. E. Kyprianos Bouboutsis of the Greek Orthodox Diocese of Chicago; Rev.

William T. Bowden, pastor; Rev. Arthur Brazier of Apostolic Church of God; Claude Christopher, presiding elder AME Episcopal Zion Church; Br. James Fogarty of Catholic Charities; Andrew Georganas of the Greek Orthodox Diocese of Chicago, and Jeffrey Muhammad, minister, Nation of Islam.

Of course, Fr. Michael Pflieger of St. Sabina Catholic Church is also on the list. He is the Roman Catholic priest who has targeted suburban Chicago gun shops with the help of the Rev. Jesse Jackson.

Of course all of these religious people ignore the fact that it is not the good people who inflict violence on the nation's streets, buildings and people. It is the violent criminal crowd, the drug dealers, the gang bangers and others who do not respond to these calls. The criminals don't respond to the gun buy-ups that are sponsored by so many churches. After all, guns are tools of their criminal trades; they wouldn't turn them in unless they could get enough money to buy even more tools of crime.

The good people, however, will still need to be able to choose to defend themselves against criminal attacks, and have the means to meet the force of violence with the power of good: guns.

But church groups are not the only ones who haven't thought through the whole issue of good and evil.

The Brady Campaign recently announced support from IBA Charities, which has contributed \$3,000 to the Chicago Committee of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence.

This year's Brady Campaign reception fundraiser, held on July 17, 2008, helped to raise more than \$30,000, according to the Brady press release. But those contributions have a political purpose. They will be used to "elect candidates who support common sense gun laws, such as extending Brady background checks to all handgun sales and banning high capacity ammunition magazines."

According to the Brady Campaign, IPA Charities is a 501(c)3 charitable foundation dedicated to the quest of improving communities and people's lives around the world. International Profit Associates Inc. (IPA-IBA), the largest privately held management consulting and professional services firm for small and medium size businesses in North America, is a leading authority on small business. With annual revenues in excess of \$200 million since 2005, IPA-IBA is the 6th largest management consulting company in Chicago and the 61st largest consulting company in the world. To learn more, visit: ipa-iba.com.

These business and religious leaders, who deny that they are against all gun ownership and the right to self-defense, will be playing a key role in the congressional and presidential elections on Nov. 4. Some are campaigning overtly. Others are doing it subversively to avoid running afoul of the Internal Revenue Service.

However, they are united in their zeal to deny good people the right to defend themselves against the bad. One need only look to the United Kingdom to see how bad things can get—and fast—when the basic moral right to self-defense—and the most efficient means—are denied good citizens. [The New GUN WEEK](#), October 15, 2008

NEWS BRIEFS

IL Deputy Busted For Drugs

From the "Only Cops Should Have Guns" file comes the story out of Groom, TX, about a veteran Cook County, IL, sheriff's deputy who was arrested, along with his traveling companion, on drug possession charges.

According to The Chicago Tribune and Associated Press, Deputy Darryl Jenkins and Dorothy Edwards, both from Calumet City, IL, were caught with the drugs Aug. 31 when they were stopped by Texas State Troopers about 50 miles east of Amarillo. They were reportedly en route back home to Chicago from a trip out to Los Angeles.

Now, this is no ordinary small-time arrest. According to published reports, those Texas lawmen found 138 pounds of marijuana and 4,000 grams of cocaine (four kilograms) in Jenkins' vehicle. In plain language, that amounts to more than 8 pounds of cocaine, for a street value of approximately \$368,000, covering the grass and blow. Both Jenkins and Edwards were in the Carson County Jail on \$60,000 bail each. [The New GUN WEEK](#), October 15, 2008

Invader Slain With Own Gun

From the "America Fights Back" file comes a report out of Blue Mound, TX, where an hombre identified as Dakota Scott Benoit, 20, will not be making anymore house calls like he did Sept. 3.

According to Fox News and the Associated Press, that was the day that Benoit and a companion identified as John Garland Pierson, 25, of Haltom City made a fatal error in the victim selection process. They smashed through the glass front door of a home belonging to Keith and Kellie Hoehn, who had no intention of being robbed.

One of the thugs was armed with a shotgun and aimed it at Kellie's head. She grabbed the shotgun barrel, pushing the muzzle away. Alerted to trouble by her screams, Keith came running.

She kept the shotgun barrel pushed away as Keith tackled the gunman. Then Kellie hit the intruder on the head with a jar candle, the newspaper said, and Keith wrestled the smoothbore from the stunned thug's hands.

The couple fought the gunman outside and onto the front lawn, where Keith saw that the second man was armed with a handgun, and shot him. Wounded, that man ran away, according to The Dallas Morning News. At that point, the man who would later be identified as Benoit lunged at Keith, and Kellie yelled at her husband to fire, which he did. Fatally wounded, Benoit fell to the ground. Pierson was rounded up a short time later. [The New GUN WEEK](#), October 15, 2008

Is That Sausage Loaded?

From the "You ain't gonna believe this" file comes the story out of Fresno, CA, about Antonio Vasquez Jr., who allegedly attacked a man with an 8-inch sausage while trying to break into the man's home.

The 21-year-old suspect was turned loose in mid-September "pending further investigation," according to The Sacramento Bee.

The newspaper said Vasquez allegedly tossed food seasoning in one man's face and attacked another with the tube steak, and wound up in jail—Without the meat or spices—for his-trouble. [The New GUN WEEK](#), October 15, 2008

Was This Punk Really Lucky?

Eighteen-year-old Lorenzo Moore of Jackson, MS, ought to feel lucky, one might presume, after learning what a neighbor of his intended victim had to say about the fact that Moore was wounded during an attempted burglary.

According to WLBT News, the neighbor, identified as Thelma Moore—who is not related to our teenage miscreant—suggested that the suspect should have suffered far worse.

"He shouldn't have just wounded him," Moore said of her unidentified neighbor. "He should have killed him dead. If he got enough nerve to come in and shoot, he's going to kill you if you don't kill him. Take him out."

Whoa, let's not get a rope before explaining what got Lorenzo into all of this trouble. According to WLBT News in Jackson, Moore was apparently caught in the act of breaking into a West Jackson home at about 9 a.m. on Sept. 8. It was Moore's misfortune that the homeowner just happened to be still in bed at the time, grabbed a gun and fired.

Hit in the arm, Moore was reportedly taken to the hospital "by private vehicle," though it was not explained who was driving. [The New GUN WEEK](#), October 15, 2008

NRA PVF Alert

\$2 for the 2nd

Monica Douglas Needs Your Help

Pro-Second Amendment candidate, **Monica Douglas** won her Primary write-in campaign. She now heads to the General election to face longtime anti-gun incumbent Representative David Levdansky, from the Monongahela Valley. Douglas, in a last minute effort, received nearly 1,000 signatures supporting her candidacy. However, Monica now needs the financial resources to win in November.

You can help in this effort by being a "\$2 for the 2nd" donor. Our goal is to reach 50,000 gun owners from across the state to donate two dollars to help preserve the Second Amendment.

Why support Monica? Her opponent, Representative David Levdansky has become the poster child for Cease Fire Pennsylvania, the most outspoken anti-gun group in Pennsylvania---and the spokesman for the anti-gun Philadelphia Legislative Caucus.

Earlier this year when the gun debate raged in Harrisburg, Levdansky stood on the Capitol steps as the keynote speaker at a

rally with Philadelphia legislators calling for "gun control measures". In fact, the *Philadelphia Daily News* recently reported that Levdansky:

"stood up to withering questioning and attacks from the National Rifle Association and its surrogates in the House to strike a blow for gun-regulation sanity."

After the latest gun control scheme was defeated this past April in Harrisburg, the *Philadelphia Inquirer* reported:

"Levdansky and others suggested that, going forward, gun-control advocates needed to take a page out the NRA's playbook: amass an army of volunteers and supporters across the state."

Levdansky tells constituents that he "believes our Constitution grants the right to bear arms" and yet his voting record and statements throughout his career show a disdain for individual liberty. As an example, at a Game and Fish Committee hearing in 1986 in Clarion, PA, Levdansky said, *"insofar as the constitutional question of the right to keep and bear arms is concerned, I think that that argument is rather hollow and shallow . . . At best, I think that the right to bear arms argument is nothing more than rightwing, ideological rhetoric and ought to be dismissed as such"*. His statements and voting record reveal his true beliefs and his position on these issues cannot be trusted.

Now it's time to **send a message!!** By joining together we can send a message to Harrisburg that the ongoing attacks against the Second Amendment have gone too far!!! It's time we stood up against the **withering innuendo and attacks on the Second Amendment by Levdansky**. Years ago, a Levdansky mailer to female constituents claimed that 'NRA' stands for 'No Rational Argument' but this election we can show him that it really means 'Not Reelected Again'.

Levdansky 'arrogantly' claims he is untouchable in his district! This is the election that gun owners can and must remove the voice of the anti-gun agenda in Harrisburg. Please be a **"\$2 for the 2nd"** contributor today. All donations should be sent to:

Citizens for Monica Douglas
300 Bryce Lane
Elizabeth, PA 15037
www.monicaidouglas.com

If you would like to volunteer please contact the campaign at 412-551-4891 or by email at mdouglas@monicadouglas.com.

Please ask your friends and families to participate as well.

Remember, together we can make the difference!

News links

08/10/04 Judge says teen can't wear gun T-shirt to school

LANCASTER -- A federal judge has sided with a south-central Pennsylvania school district in a dispute over whether a high school student should have been barred from wearing a T-shirt with images of guns on it.

"Students have no constitutional right to promote violence in our public schools," U.S. District Judge James Knoll Gardner in Allentown wrote in an opinion issued Tuesday.

Donald Miller III, now a 15-year-old sophomore at Penn Manor High School in Millersville, was given detention in December after he defied an assistant principal's order to turn the shirt inside-out. Images of two guns were printed on the shirt, along with phrases including, "United States Terrorist Hunting Permit ... No Bag Limit."

The student's parents sued the school district earlier this year, arguing that his freedom of speech was violated. The shirt, a gift from an uncle who is stationed in Iraq, was intended to be a patriotic show of support for the troops, they argued.

Judge Gardner disagreed and noted that schools have been forced to become increasingly vigilant about potential warning signs of violence.

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/08278/917485-454.stm?cmpid=news.xml>

08/10/03 Support for concealed carry grows at Colo. State

Following a string of campus shootings last year, universities and colleges across the nation have taken to examining the safety policies of their campus, including allowing students to carry concealed weapons on campus, a practice banned in most states.

The issue has achieved debate in the state legislatures of both Virginia and Illinois, and has turned many eyes towards the few campuses that have legalized concealed carry.

Last year in Utah, state government enacted a bill legalizing concealed carry on campuses across the state, a decision which has yet to result in a documented incident.

Colorado State University is one of the few campuses where students are permitted to carry concealed weapons, granted they carry a carrying concealed weapon permit.

The policy allows students with a permit to carry their handgun most places on campus including classrooms but not residence halls.

Anthony Ryan, a senior art major and campus leader for CSU's chapter of Students for Concealed Carry on Campus, says it might help increase security if students started carrying guns on campus.

"I think it could happen anywhere, and that's why I think the administration here at CSU and the campus police department allow us to do what we do," Ryan said. "They know it is a possibility."

The issue, Ryan told The Rocky Mountain Collegian, is one that affects all students.

"This isn't just about active shooters," he said. "This isn't just about [Virginia Tech] and [University of Northern Illinois] scenarios. This is about any kind of protection from any kind of an assault. We can't say that there's not going to be an active shooter, we can't say that there isn't going to be an assault."

Some students, however, feel less safe on a campus that permits concealed carry. Cont....

<http://media.www.bgnews.com/media/storage/paper883/news/2008/10/03/Campus/Support.For.Concealed.Carry.Grows.At.Colo.State-3468199.shtml>

08/10/02 U-M study: Gun shows don't increase homicide, suicide rates

ANN ARBOR -- Gun shows don't contribute to increased homicide or suicide rates, according to results of a study announced Wednesday by the University of Michigan's Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy.

The joint University of Michigan and University of Maryland examination of gun death data in the weeks surrounding more than 3,400 California and Texas gun shows concluded tighter regulation of the flea market-like operations did nothing to reduce firearms-related deaths in the following month.

Researchers compared gunshot death data surrounding every known gun show in California and Texas between 1994 and 2004. California has some of the most stringent gun sale rules in the country. Texas is among the least restrictive.

To the extent that 33 regulations such as those in place in California reduce any deleterious effects of gun shows, one might expect to detect a larger effect in a relatively unregulated state such as Texas. Our results, however, provide no evidence to suggest that gun shows lead to a substantial increase in the number of homicides or suicides in either California or Texas," said U-M professor Brian Jacob, head of the Ford School's Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy.

Like Michigan, California requires background checks for all gun buyers and a multiday waiting period to obtain the firearm. The wait in Michigan is three days and 10 days in California. Texas has no similar regulations.

"I'm not surprised they found those results. I'm surprised it took so long for someone to actually do the study," said Mike Thiede, spokesman for Michigan Gun Owners, a 3,700-member Dearborn Heights gun rights and gun education advocacy group.

The data came from within 25 miles of the shows. Of more than 105,000 homicides and suicides reported in the two states during the 11-year period, 61 percent were gun-related. Using ZIP codes, trends before and after the shows were examined. Researchers say gun-related homicides in the weeks immediately after gun shows in Texas declined slightly.

"That claim about increased homicides and suicides is something that we hear mostly from the East and West coasts. Here in the Midwest, people know better," Thiede said.

Gun control advocates believe the study is flawed.

"My main concern about this study is what it appears to be measuring is pretty narrow," said former Fort Wayne, Ind., Mayor Paul Helmke, now president of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence in Washington, D.C. "When I've talked to California law enforcement, they are happy with how their regulations work. But they see guns coming from Nevada and Arizona. We have a very fluid market, and the gun shows are a part of that. This study answers an interesting question, just not the crucial question."

In the report Jacob co-wrote with Mark Duggan and Randi Hjalmarsson of the University of Maryland, he said, "We believe that this analysis makes an important contribution to understanding the influence of gun shows, the regulation of which is arguably the most active area of federal, state, and local firearms policy. To our knowledge, this is the first study that directly examines the impact of gun shows on gun-related deaths."

In the paper, Jacob wrote about gun control advocate complaints about "the gun show loophole" that exists in many states that makes it easier for potential criminals to obtain a gun. Gun shows may also affect suicide rates by making it easier to get a gun.

Helmke said unlicensed sales regularly take place at gun shows between private parties who meet at the events.

"The shows allow a private seller to have a floating place of business, to go to gun shows and stay in business without advertising," Helmke said. It's a venue of people who are in the business but don't meet the requirements and that makes it easier for dangerous people to get dangerous weapons."

Sport Shows Promotions Inc. of Mason has scheduled 27 gun and knife shows throughout Michigan this year. Events this month are set for Kalamazoo, Cadillac and Grand Rapids and Oct. 11-12 at the Michigan State Fairgrounds in Detroit. The Gibraltar Trade Center will host a show the same weekend in Taylor and another Oct. 17-19 at its Mount Clemens location.

"The AFT comes into our shows and monitors us all the time," said Doug Carl, head of Sport Show Promotions. "It's against the law in Michigan for private parties to sell to each other without the same FBI background check and proper permits as the commercial sales. That's where other states drop the ball, I think. I'm not opposed to being safe."

<http://www.detnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081002/METRO/810020375/1020/NATION>

08/10/02 Ballistics tracking urged to ID guns

A gun-control advocate told the D.C. Council's public safety committee Wednesday that officials should consider adopting a complex method of ballistics tracking to help identify guns used in the city.

"In crime scenes, what we find are cartridges and no guns," said Joshua Horwitz, executive director of the Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence. "Microstamping can provide the link between the gun and cartridge."

Mr. Horwitz's comments came during a hearing before the council's Committee on Public Safety and the Judiciary regarding gun laws in the District.

Temporary legislation passed by the council last month aims to comply with a U.S. Supreme Court ruling earlier this year that struck down the District's handgun ban. The bill will be in effect for 225 days while the council considers permanent legislation.

Microstamping is a process by which a microscopic marking is transferred from the firearm to a cartridge when a gun is fired.

During Wednesday's hearing, Mr. Horwitz said the stamp could then be matched to a manufacturer and the cartridge traced back to the person who bought the weapon.

In California, microstamping of all new models of semiautomatic handguns will be required by 2010. But Metropolitan Police Chief Cathy L. Lanier, who also testified at the hearing, said she isn't sold on the practice.

The chief said she would like to strengthen gun laws by educating potential gun owners with a video and having gun owners re-register their weapons every five years.

"More research should be done before [microstamping is] considered," Chief Lanier said.

D.C. residents currently must register their firearms.

Under the city's new law, weapons that can fire more than 12 rounds without being reloaded are no longer considered machine guns. The previous definition effectively banned all semiautomatic weapons because magazines of virtually any capacity theoretically can be designed for them.

However, the law still caps magazine capacity at 10 rounds in an effort to ensure that police have more firepower than criminals. Those who wish to purchase guns manufactured to hold more rounds would have to buy magazines modified to hold no more than 10.

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2008/oct/02/ballistics-tracking-urged-to-id-guns/>

08/10/02 Scalia Defends Original Meaning

Supreme Court Justice Antonin G. Scalia defended constitutional originalism at Harvard Law School yesterday, punctuating the final moments of his speech by shouting "I don't have to prove that originalism is perfect!" to a packed, applause-filled room.

Scalia, who graduated magna cum laude from the Law School in 1960, delivered the inaugural Herbert W. Vaughn Lecture, a biannual address that will focus on the "founding principles and core doctrines" of the U.S. Constitution.

In his speech, entitled "Methodology of Originalism," Scalia argued that justices should strive to base their decisions on the original meaning of the law.

Within the Supreme Court, Scalia is one of the leading proponents of constitutional originalism. He opposes the concept of a "living Constitution," that the Constitution's meaning should be adapted to fit the needs of contemporary society.

In the speech, Scalia invoked the era before Earl Warren became Chief Justice in the mid-20th century, when the standard view held that the Constitution should be "no different from any other legal text, such as a statute."

"It bears a static meaning which does not change from generation to generation," Scalia said.

Although Scalia did not entirely disavow the importance of historical context, he criticized the non-originalists' interpretation of the Constitution, which may use moral and philosophical arguments.

"Lawyers [and judges] are trained to determine the meaning of texts which sometimes require historical inquiry," Scalia said. "They are not trained to be moral philosophers."

The Justice's remarks drew the warmest response during the question and answer portion of his lecture, as he employed humor to field the audience's inquiries.

When an audience member suggested that one could hypothetically own large pieces of weaponry under the ruling of the 2008 case District of Columbia vs. Heller, which upheld an individual's right to bear arms for private use, Scalia responded, "Bearing arms—you can't bear a tank."

"You can't bear a cannon or a mortar of the sort in use in 1781, so it didn't even the playing field between the citizens and the standing army," he said.

Although many audience members said they had mixed views of originalism, most agreed that Scalia's speech had more than met their expectations.

"He's a funny, personable guy. I can't believe I was 20 feet

away from Justice Scalia," said first-year law student Michael L. Watson.

<http://www.thecrimson.com/article.aspx?ref=524379>

08/10/01 When deadly force is justified

Advocates say laws protect the right to self-defense, but opponents fear they encourage violence

The Indiana law that justifies use of deadly force for people defending themselves, their home or others in danger is seldom used, but this week's case involving a Northwestside family brings it to the spotlight.

Sunday, Robert McNally put a chokehold on a naked intruder. The man died, and McNally faces no charges.

Law enforcement officials said McNally's actions were merited by the law, which does not require people to back away before defending themselves or someone else from serious bodily injury or a forcible felony.

Indiana is like 22 other states, mostly in the Midwest and South, that since 2005 have strengthened deadly force laws to ensure that crime victims could not be prosecuted for rightfully defending their family or home.

"The underlying premise is that victims of crime can have an opportunity to defend themselves if they choose to do so," said Andrew Arulanandam, a spokesman for the National Rifle Association, which has been a supporter of the push for stronger laws.

But other advocates and state lawmakers say the expansion of such laws could promote violence as a means of retaliation and point to examples of the laws' abuse in other states.

"The concern I've had is that by changing well-developed law, maybe we're encouraging more people to shoot first," said Paul Helmke, president of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, which has opposed the strengthening of force laws.

David Meyers entered McNally's rental home in the 3500 block of West 79th Street early Sunday morning.

Meyers had climbed through a window next to McNally's 17-year-old daughter's bedroom, wearing only a mask and latex gloves and carrying rope, condoms and a knife, and then entered the girl's room.

After McNally heard his daughter's screams, he struggled with Meyers, police said. Officers arrived to find McNally in the kitchen with his arm around Meyers' neck.

Meyers was pronounced dead at the scene. An autopsy found the cause of death to be asphyxia by strangulation with contributing cardiovascular disease.

Henry Karlson, a retired professor of law at Indiana University, said it doesn't appear that McNally used deadly force because it wasn't foreseeable that his actions could cause death. But Karlson and other experts agree that even if he had, the use of deadly force would be merited.

The right to self-defense has been in existence in Indiana since the state's constitution was drafted, Karlson said. It was expanded to include the right to defend a third person in the 1970s.

In 2006, Indiana lawmakers strengthened the law to state that a person can use deadly force without first trying to back away from danger. Rep. Eric Koch, R-Bedford, who wrote the bill,

said it was implemented to assure crime victims that they can defend themselves without fearing prosecution or a lawsuit.

"What we were doing is really expressing the intent of the Second Amendment," Koch said. "(People) can be confident of their rights."

Though there is no movement to expand or rein in the laws in Indiana, backers like the NRA continue to encourage such laws' expansion in other states. These supporters call them "stand your ground" laws.

Opponents, however, call them "shoot first" laws and identify examples of misuse in some states.

In Florida, for instance, a man shot his unarmed neighbor after the two exchanged heated words at the man's front door.

In Texas, a man killed two unarmed people who had broken into his neighbor's home.

Neither was arrested.

The effects of the law's expansion in Indiana have been more difficult to measure.

In 2007, a Greenfield security guard shot and killed a man coming at him with a power saw in a darkened room. Prosecutors filed no charges. In July, a Greene County man was not charged after fatally shooting a man who entered his home, refused to leave, and threatened to beat and kill him.

The Marion County prosecutor's office does not track statistics of whether fewer people who claim self-defense are being charged or convicted with new laws in place, spokesman Matthew Symons said.

Lawmakers who supported and opposed the amended law in 2006 said they had not heard of any problems in its application.

Still, some lawmakers say such measures should be expanded with caution.

Rep. Vernon Smith, D-Gary, said he opposed the law initially because he saw it as a pass to react with violence.

Even with broader laws in place, he said, he hopes residents will protect themselves without acting rashly.

"What the law ought to do is look at the circumstances," Smith said, "rather than giving people carte blanche authority to use deadly force."

<http://www.indystar.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081001/NEWS02/810010379>

08/10/01 The Solution to Hunting's Woes? Setting Sights on Women

Industry Shoots for New Role Models

PARIS, Tenn. -- Brenda Valentine was running a beauty shop in rural Tennessee when her shooting skills came to the attention of the hunting industry. Today, she is a television star and paid speaker at hunting conventions, where fans wait in lines for her autograph.

"People will bring me their grandpa's shotgun to sign or even kiss," she says. "Some have named their children after me."

Mrs. Valentine, 58 years old, is perhaps the most visible face of an industry effort to draw more women into the woods. As the number of male hunters has declined, the sport has targeted women with everything from pink guns to gender-specific hunting courses. Now, they're seeking out spokesmodels and pushing weapons tailored for women, such as lighter crossbows. Television shows starring women shooters include "American

Huntress" and "Family Traditions with Haley Heath," chronicling the hunting adventures of a young woman and her tag-along husband and children.

The campaign received a boost in recent weeks from the Republican Party's vice presidential nomination of Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin. Photographs have since emerged of the governor posing beside a caribou she'd shot, and supporters boasted that she knew how to field-dress a moose. Gov. Palin is an ideal role model, say some women hunters, because she defies the masculine image of the sport. "She's a babe," says Linda Burch, a bear-hunting Minnesota accounting executive who applies lipstick before posing for kill shots.

Gov. Palin also counters the stereotype of the woman hunter as poor, rural and uneducated. A 2003 survey of Texans who had attended a state hunting-and-outdoors training program for women found that 82% lived in cities, 79% had graduated from college and 39% had household incomes above \$80,000 a year. They spent a mean of \$3,250 a year on outdoor recreational pursuits, said the state wildlife agency, which conducted the survey.

But some women see the media focus on Gov. Palin's hunting as evidence of a lingering gender gap. Only after Vice President Dick Cheney accidentally shot a fellow hunter (causing minor injury) did his hunting habits gain attention. "Why is it news that Sarah Palin is a hunter?" asks Christine Thomas, a Wisconsin college dean and long-time advocate of programs to teach women about the outdoors.

As the overall number of U.S. hunters declined to 12.5 million from 14.1 million in the 15 years ended in 2006, the number of women hunters rose to 1.2 million from 1.1 million, according to a survey conducted every five years by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Women hunters are training a new generation. "I see a lot of single mothers wanting to learn how to hunt because their boys want to," says Ashley Mathews, who coordinates outdoor activities for women for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

'Pink It and Shrink It'

About five years ago, the outdoor-equipment industry began slapping pink paint on weapons, including handguns, and downsizing camouflage. "Initially their attitude was, 'Pink it and shrink it' and women will buy," says Beth Ann Amico, an Oklahoma hunter and dog trainer who notes that pink defeats the purpose of camouflage. "We're savvier than that."

Now, arms makers are offering shorter gun stocks and barrels for women and crossbows requiring less upper-body strength. Apparel makers such as SHE Safari and Foxy Huntress LLC are marketing camouflage expressly to women. "The Foxy Huntress knows she's dressed to kill in more ways than one," says that three-year-old company's Web site, touting "well-designed pieces cut with a female's unique form and needs in mind."

Web sites such as WomenHunters.com offer support and advice. On that site's bulletin board, contributors with names like Susie Sure Shot, bowfishinlady and sheslayer exchange tips.

"I found this site looking for information on whether or not you can shoot a compound bow while pregnant," wrote a contributor named Jill.

"A lot of the women have shot a compound while pregnant," replied Gail. "Just be sure you are not straining when you pull the weight."

By some accounts, female hunters are different than their male counterparts. Unlike most male hunters, for instance, some share poetry with each other. "I wish I may, I wish I might, have a big buck in my sight," reads one contribution to WomenHunters.com's poetry page.

Another difference: When women hunt together, individual success is often cheered as a group accomplishment, says Mrs. Valentine, the onetime beauty-shop owner. In all-male parties, by contrast, she says one fellow's kill generally "gets everyone else pouting."

Men aren't necessarily better hunters. A 2006 ESPN contest to crown the Ultimate Outdoorsman featured 12 finalists, one of them female. Named Haley Heath, she was a Georgia wife, mother and hunter, and she made it as far as the semifinals despite competing while pregnant. That performance won Ms. Heath, now 28, her own hunting show on the Sportsman Channel.

Mrs. Valentine, a pioneer among famous women hunters, stalked game all her life while running a small-town hair salon that doubled as a hunters' hangout. Only after her daughters were older did Mrs. Valentine start traveling to archery competitions in the 1980s, where she often triumphed over men.

At a time when outdoors companies were seeking to appeal to women, Mrs. Valentine's prowess gained attention. Bass Pro Shops, among other sponsors, began paying her to conduct hunts around the country with a film crew in tow. On camera, she displayed wit, skill and knowledge, along with manicured nails and long hair.

First Lady of Hunting

Sports and outdoors channels snapped up the shows, and before long, the host of an outdoors-radio program dubbed Mrs. Valentine the First Lady of Hunting, a nickname she trademarked. Her husband, once the family's primary breadwinner, has retired from a local electric utility and now works for his wife. "I always wanted to visit Wyoming and Montana," says Barney Valentine. "So this is like a dream: These companies are paying us to do it."

Of course, women hunters sometimes stir resentment among their peers. When a shop in Paris, Tenn., called Tower Sports Center held a deer-hunting contest in 1994, Mrs. Valentine won the trophy animals in all three categories: archery, muzzleloader and rifle. Before announcing the results, Tower owner Larry Dunlap asked Mrs. Valentine to bow out of two categories to make way for male winners, and she agreed. "A lot of hunters here in the area resent women being better," says Mr. Dunlap.

In hunting parties, men sometimes assumed she would whine about various hardships. When Browning, the firearms maker, agreed to send Mrs. Valentine on an otherwise male hunt in the 1990s, the man in charge of that company-sponsored event was upset: "I didn't want to have to baby-sit her," says Bill Norton, Browning's national sales manager. As it turned out, he says he learned from her, and has since come to believe that "women are better hunters. They're more conscious of small details."

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122281550760292225.html?mod=googlenews_wsj

08/09/30 DA, Pawlowski duel over city gun law

Martin urges police chief not to enforce if passed.

Lehigh County District Attorney James Martin is urging Allentown Mayor Ed Pawlowski to withdraw a proposed ordinance requiring gun owners to report lost or stolen guns, calling it unconstitutional and unenforceable.

If the legislation passes Wednesday, when it's scheduled for a vote, Martin pledged to instruct Allentown Police Chief Roger MacLean not make arrests under the ordinance, according to a letter he wrote to city solicitor Jerry Snyder on Monday.

Any officer who makes an arrest under the ordinance could face obstruction of justice charges, Martin said in an interview Monday.

"The issue is clear," Martin said. "When it comes to gun-control legislation, any city ordinance is preempted by state law and that makes any Allentown law unenforceable."

Martin's public opposition to the measure sets the stage for a likely battle with the mayor, who pledged Monday to continue with the proposal, despite the objections from the county's highest-ranking law enforcement official.

"Mr. Martin and the city law department have a different point of view and we anticipate that the issue will be resolved at the state Supreme Court," Pawlowski said, referring to ongoing litigation arising out of Philadelphia's bid to regulate firearms.

"The state law involves the legal use of firearms; what we are talking about is the illegal use," Pawlowski said. "Though we appreciate Mr. Martin's opinion, we are just trying to keep guns out of the hands of criminals."

Pawlowski joined with seven other state mayors -- including Easton Mayor Sal Panto Jr. and Bethlehem Mayor John Callahan -- earlier this month in Reading to announce they were introducing the lost or stolen gun measure in their home cities, arguing they were forced to take the action because of lack of activity in Harrisburg.

The ordinance would require gun owners to report lost or stolen guns within 72 hours or face fines up to \$1,000 and possibly up to 90 days in jail. Among other things, the law is aimed at cracking down on straw purchases, where someone purchases guns legally and sells them on the underground market.

The mayors acknowledged that the state has the authority to regulate guns, but insist state statutes don't apply once the gun is separated from its legal owner. Also, the crime would be a summary offense, like a code violation, keeping it out of state court unless it's appealed.

In interviews last week, City Councilmen Michael D'Amore, Julio Guridy and Pete Schweyer all described the ordinance as a "no-brainer" and suggested that it was likely to pass without much opposition -- though it's unclear whether Martin's opposition will sway council.

"A lot of crimes are committed with guns that are stolen, so it seems like common sense to me," Guridy said.

Schweyer took offense Monday to what he sees as Martin injecting himself into matters of local significance.

"I don't understand how Mr. Martin can tell police what to do," Schweyer said. "Last time I checked, Martin is not the mayor of

Allentown. He doesn't even live in Allentown."

Martin said the state's district attorneys have a legal responsibility to protect citizens from laws that are unconstitutional. "I am the chief law enforcement official in the county -- trust me, I have the authority," he said.

Martin's letter follows a Commonwealth Court ruling Friday that said Philadelphia was not entitled to set its own gun laws, including an ordinance passed last year that required the reporting of lost or stolen guns.

"It is...clear to me that any attempt by the city of Allentown to regulate firearms in the fashion proposed would meet the same fate, i.e. the courts will find such ordinance to be unconstitutional and unenforceable because of state preemption," Martin wrote.

The Commonwealth Court judges concurred with a long line of opinions making clear the state -- not municipalities -- have the power to regulate guns.

However, Philadelphia's ordinances were different from Allentown's. They required state approval to take effect. They never got it, and the Commonwealth Court rejected them.

Philadelphia later passed an ordinance like Allentown's, but the measure's being challenged in Commonwealth Court by the National Rifle Association.

GUN VOTE IN ALLENTOWN

WHAT: City Council is expected to hold a committee hearing, followed by a possible vote, on an ordinance that would require the reporting of a lost or stolen gun.

WHEN: Committee meeting begins at 6 p.m. Wednesday. The council meeting follows at 7:30 p.m.

WHERE: City Council chambers, 435 Hamilton St.

By Jarrett Renshaw | Of The Morning Call

jarrett.renshaw@mcall.com

610-820-6539

http://www.mcall.com/news/local/all-b1_5gun.6609343sep30.0.7760728.story

08/09/30 Court shoots down law limiting gun purchases

A state appeals court yesterday struck down a controversial Jersey City law seeking to limit the number of handguns people can buy.

Jersey City's law had sought to keep people from buying more than one handgun every 30 days. The unanimous appeals panel said Jersey City exceeded its authority and didn't have a right to enact such a local law because state law already regulates the sale of handguns.

"Jersey City, via the ordinance at issue, seeks to impose a local standard in a subject matter area that has been rather comprehensively addressed by the state," wrote Appellate Division Judge Howard Kestin, who was joined by Judges Edwin Stern and Christine Miniman.

The decision noted New Jersey allows "an individual to have multiple handgun permits so long as the permits are obtained in compliance with strict guidelines" in state law.

The judges confined their ruling to New Jersey laws and did not address any larger questions about the Second Amendment right to bear arms.

Gun rights advocates cheered the decision and said it closes "a door to an inconsistent patchwork of laws."

"What New Jersey needs are tough laws that severely punish violent criminal behavior, involving guns. What we don't need is more regulations that (affect) only honest gun owners and do little" to reduce crime, said Scott Bach, president of the Association of New Jersey Rifle and Pistol Clubs, which sued the city over the law.

Bach said all Jersey City's law did was stop people who have gotten a permit, including a background check by police, from buying guns. He said it would only affect "law abiding citizens, criminals don't buy their guns from dealers."

Jersey City officials and anti-gun groups decried the ruling and said they would appeal to the New Jersey Supreme Court.

"Everyone knows the first order of any government is ... public safety," said Jersey City Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy. "We are aimed at stanching the flow of illegal guns on the street."

The ruling imposes upon home rule, said some advocates of the measure.

Linda Fisher, who represented the Greenville chapter of the Associated Community Organizations For Reform Now, said the measure was adopted when the city was in the midst of a gun epidemic.

"As a policy matter, we think cities should have the opportunity to address -- by legislation -- particular problems they have," said Fisher, a law professor with the Center of Social Justice at Seton Hall Law School.

Craig Levine, senior counsel and policy director at the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice, said he also disagreed with the ruling.

"State law permits locally sensitive responses to local issues such as public safety," Levine said. "Fewer guns on these streets increases public safety. This is not an issue that confronts every township and city. Local government ought to be able to craft locally sensitive responses with state law acting as a floor, not a ceiling."

Ceasefire NJ executive director Bryan Miller and Assemblywoman Joan Quigley (D-Hudson) said they would push for state legislation that would take the Jersey City law across the Garden State.

<http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-11/1222748747129450.xml&coll=1>

08/09/29 Concealed or open carrying of guns at issue in city case

Greg Llewellyn, his girlfriend and four friends were sipping hot tea outside a West Side coffee shop on a recent August night when a pair of Cleveland police officers approached with guns drawn.

Get on the ground, an officer ordered, forcing the surprised group to set aside their drinks and hit the sidewalk belly-down. An officer began searching one of Llewellyn's friends before abruptly ending the suspense and demanding to know who had the gun.

"I am the one who has the weapon," the 26-year-old Llewellyn answered. The butt of a black, holstered and loaded CZ-52 pistol -- a Czech-made gun -- was visible tucked behind him in his belt.

The officers arrested him for carrying a concealed weapon. Llewellyn protested, saying he was not trying to hide the gun, because Ohio law allowed him to openly carry it in public.

The officers didn't buy his argument and sent Llewellyn to jail and confiscated his rare pistol.

Unless he was truly trying to hide the gun, the law appears to be on Llewellyn's side.

For over a year now, while most attention has focused on who can get a concealed-carry permit, Ohio law has allowed most adults to walk down the street visibly armed -- no permit needed, no training required and no need to register the gun.

"There is no state or federal law that says you cannot carry openly, except in a few specific places," said Jeff Garvas, of Ohioans for Concealed Carry. "So walking down the street with a gun is legal."

That's a dangerous scenario that conjures up memories of Wild West movies, opponents say.

"What are we teaching the next generation? Are we saying we live in a society where everyone should openly carry a gun?" asked Toby Hoover of the Ohio Coalition Against Gun Violence.

"Most of us don't want to be walking down the street with someone who has a gun, but piece by piece by piece, nobody has a right to say that," she said. "Nobody has a right anymore to say, 'I don't want a gun near me.'"

A 2003 Ohio Supreme Court ruling said openly carrying a weapon was a constitutional right but that restrictions could be placed on concealing firearms.

That latter stipulation prompted House Bill 347, which put in place uniform rules for concealed carrying and created Ohio's "Right to Bear Arms" law in March 2007 to clearly state that open carry was legal.

In fact, to get away from the legalese sometimes decipherable only by jurists, the Ohio attorney general's office issued a primer on the state's gun laws that includes this line: "The open carry of firearms is legal activity in Ohio."

Still, that doesn't mean that everyone is clear on the law or even knows it exists.

"I tell people, if you're going to open carry, you might as well carry a retainer check, too," said gun rights attorney Ken Hanson of Delaware County, whose clients include the National Rifle Association. "Because you are going to create some excitement, and it is going to create police encounters."

Ohio is one of about 15 states that allow unlicensed open carrying everywhere with a few exceptions, such as for government buildings and establishments where liquor is sold. There have been confrontations between open carriers and police elsewhere, too.

Ohio law allows open carrying for adult nonfelons who are not brandishing or using the firearm in a threatening way. People convicted of misdemeanor drug offenses are also prohibited from openly carrying a gun.

And unlike rules for getting concealed-carry permits, which require holders to pay for training before buying their licenses, there are no such rules for open carrying, according to the law.

It has been a good month for gun-rights supporters, giving them renewed confidence in their right to carry openly, even as some question that provision of the law.

First, a law relaxing some concealed-carry rules took effect on Sept. 9. And then on Sept. 18, in a 4-3 decision, the Ohio Supreme Court said local governments cannot pass ordinances that conflict with the state gun law.

The decision struck a blow against a lawsuit Cleveland filed against the state a week after House Bill 347 took effect. The suit, in Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court, contends the gun law illegally tramples the city's rights under the state constitution to self-govern and reasonably regulate firearms.

The issue of open carry could offer a new twist, and cases like Llewellyn's could be at the center of the debate.

"I think this could be the next big challenge to Ohio's gun laws, even though the law is clearly on our side," said Garvas, of Ohioans for Concealed Carry, which advises its members to open carry if they wish but to be cautious about it.

Hoover, from the anti-gun coalition, said she advises people all the time to call police if they see a person with a gun, despite the law.

"Because there is no way to know if that person is going somewhere to commit a crime with it, there's no way to know, so call the police," Hoover said. "I still think this part of the law can be tested."

The law does not explicitly state what is considered concealed carry. And Llewellyn himself questions whether he could have violated the statute since part of his gun, which he carried for three weeks before his arrest, was hidden beneath his belt line.

"It was in a military holster with a flap over the top, so I wonder if they consider that concealed," he said. "But it's a big, hulking holster with an extra clip, so you could clearly see it from the back. I mean, they had three calls to 9-1-1 that night."

Cleveland has a local ordinance prohibiting open carry, and police are under orders by Mayor Frank Jackson to continue enforcing the local rules despite the state law, according to Lt. Thomas Stacho, a department spokesman.

However, Llewellyn was not charged with violating the city ordinance, just the state law. Unfamiliar with the case, Stacho said that meant that the arresting officers must have felt Llewellyn was hiding the gun.

The Cuyahoga County prosecutor's office did not respond to requests for comment on the case.

Llewellyn is a transplant from New Hampshire who has called Ohio home the past 18 months but has moved to several Cleveland addresses. A bicyclist who works as a bike mechanic, Llewellyn said he was robbed at gunpoint earlier this year for the \$5 he had in his pocket.

He decided then he wanted to get a gun for protection and bought his pistol from a former roommate for \$100. But because he had recently moved (and has since moved again) Llewellyn had not established residency for at least four months to qualify for a concealed-carry permit.

He then learned that he could carry openly until he could get a concealed license.

He was arrested on Aug. 18, pleaded not guilty last week and was assigned a public defender.

"I think my case is pretty clear-cut," he said. "Any lawyer who understands the law should be able to help me get this dropped and get my weapon back."

Hanson, the gun-rights attorney, said that until the confusion over the law subsides, he worries a situation like Llewellyn's could end up worse.

"My biggest fear is you are going to have a police officer who is not versed [on the law] and you have a carrier who is not versed, and you have a tragic situation," Hanson said.

"That's why to me, it's not really a legal question anymore," he said. "I think at this point it is more a public-education issue."

<http://www.cleveland.com/news/plaindealer/index.ssf?/base/news/1222677007212490.xml&coll=2&thispage=1>

08/09/29 Police call for moratorium on parole

A viewing will be held later today for murdered Philadelphia Police Officer Patrick McDonald.

He was shot to death last week by a man with a violent past, who was recently released on parole. And today, the City Police Union is calling for tough steps to make sure it doesn't happen again.

The Fraternal Order of Police wants a full investigation of the State Parole Board's practices and standards. They want no more plea bargains for anyone charged with felony assaults on police officers. The cops say four Philadelphia cop killings in a year is an outrage.

The Fraternal Order of Police and the police department brass are calling an all out public pressure assault on judges they believe are too easy on violent criminals and the state parole board, which they say lets dangerous convicts out on parole when it is not necessary.

The FOP has a full page in the Daily News today saying they are going to up the pressure on the judicial system to lower the boom on potential cop killers.

During a press conference today Fraternal Order of Police President John McNesby said, "Our police officers are angry and they are outraged. They are outraged at the sentencing practices of the judges of the city of Philadelphia, and also the anger should be directed to the nine-member parole board." This week's poster child is the late Daniel Giddings - the career criminal who shot and killed Officer Patrick McDonald last week. Giddings just got out of jail in August after serving 10 years of a 12-year sentence. Judge Lynne Bennet Hamlin, who sentenced him Giddings, could have given him over 40 years. Because of his misconduct in prison, the parole board could have held him 2 more years.

"We will not standby silently while our legal system, specifically our judges and our parole board, as they allow violent, violent career criminals to freely roam our streets," said McNesby.

Philadelphia Police Commissioner Charles Ramsey added, "Let me ask you a question: How many judges have been killed this year on the streets of Philadelphia? I'll give you an answer - zero. How many parole board members have been killed this year? Zero. Yet the decisions they make impact the lives of every single one of us. And I cannot stand here and say no Philadelphia police officer has died within the last year because we're burying another one tomorrow!"

Police Commissioner Ramsey is asking for as many members of the public as possible to come out after 1:00 tomorrow afternoon and line the funeral procession route to show their support for Officer McDonald's family and the Philadelphia Police Force in general.

<http://abclocal.go.com/wpvi/story?se...cal&id=6419993>

<http://cbs3.com/topstories/Philadelphia.Police.McDonald.2.828196.html>

08/09/27 Court again blocks Phila.'s try for gun-control law

A Commonwealth Court ruled yesterday against the city's right to pass its own gun-control ordinances, prompting an angry Mayor Nutter to demand state lawmakers take action with the funeral of another slain police officer looming Tuesday.

"You're either on the side of the criminals or you're on the side of law-abiding public. That's it," Nutter said.

The Commonwealth Court, in its ruling, concurred with a long line of opinions that said only the state has the power to regulate guns.

Yesterday's ruling is but a step in a legal-political grappling match that pits Nutter and City Council against the state legislature and the National Rifle Association.

City Council passed seven gun-control laws last year, which, among other things, sought to limit handgun purchases to one per month and require the reporting of lost or stolen firearms. In deference to the state, those laws required approval by the state legislature before they could take effect.

The legislature refused to approve the laws, and in October 2007 Council members Darrell L. Clarke and Donna Reed Miller went to Commonwealth Court to seek validation of the local gun laws.

It was that suit that the court rejected yesterday.

Clarke and Miller said they would appeal to the state Supreme Court.

"It's frustrating to quibble over language while the gun violence . . . calls for much more direct action," said Miller. She said Tuesday's funeral for McDonald, "should really help us keep our focus on this."

McDonald was shot to death by a wanted felon on Tuesday. He was the fourth city police officer killed in 11 months.

In April, City Council passed a new set of five ordinances without asking for state approval. The NRA challenged those laws in Common Pleas Court. Two - one banning assault weapons and a one handgun-a-month law - were thrown out.

Three others survived: a requirement to report lost and stolen firearms within 24 hours, one to restrict guns from those under a protection from abuse order and another to ban gun ownership from those deemed to be a danger to themselves or others.

Nutter has promised to begin enforcing those laws, particularly the lost-and-stolen requirement aimed at preventing "straw purchasers" from buying guns for felons, then pleading that their guns were stolen when a crime weapon is traced to them.

Those laws would appear to be threatened by the Commonwealth Court ruling yesterday.

NRA attorney C. Scott Shields said he would file an appeal with Commonwealth Court on Monday to stay the city's enforcement efforts, citing, yesterday's opinion.

"Local gun control in Philadelphia is going to die a very quick death," Shields said, "as well it should."

State Sen. Michael Stack, (D., Phila.) said he would introduce a bill next week to require the reporting of lost and stolen handguns statewide.

http://www.philly.com/inquirer/local/pa/20080927_Court_again_blocks_Philas_try_for_gun-control_law.html

08/09/26 More women find hunting a way to keep the table full

A 12-year-old going out squirrel hunting with her father. A mother with two young sons and a long winter in front of her, getting her deer for the meals it will provide.

These are just a couple of the North Country women who have carried on the tradition of hunting. For those who grew up hunting, the goal was to bring something home for the supper table. The 12-year-old who grew up hunting for the dinner table is a grandmother now and hasn't hunted since she was pregnant with her first child, but she remembers fondly the tenderness of the deer meat her mother used to can.

"We shot it, we ate it," she says simply. Her mother used to stew the rabbits she would bring home after hunting with her father and older brothers. In the upper reaches of Vermont's Northeast Kingdom, she and her family hunted regularly, she says, "many times out of necessity."

Still, she enjoyed the time spent outdoors with her father. When she was in high school, her family moved to Berlin and she met a young man who appreciated her love of the outdoors and the fact that she hunted.

"That's one of the things we had in common when we first started dating. He was intrigued," she says of the man who is now her husband. Her last time out hunting was when she was seven months pregnant.

"Things change," she says, "when you have children."

Things changed for Martha VanderWolk, a New Hampshire native who went to college in Vermont and stayed in that state, raising three boys and taking up hunting to help feed the family, but they changed in the opposite direction.

"My first husband," she explains, "was a 'real Vermonter,' so I pretty much had to learn to hunt. The first time he took me out to shoot a gun, he put 25 percent too much black powder in the muzzle loader, on purpose, and it just about took my shoulder off."

Not every woman who would like to take to the woods come hunting season is lucky enough to have a male friend or relative, (or a female friend or relative), waiting in the wings to teach her how to handle firearms and how to hunt. Fortunately, with the number of hunters declining over the past few decades, there's a big push to make the sport more inclusive. That push will likely get stronger, as fish and game organizations take advantage of the publicity generated by moose-hunting Republican vice-presidential candidate Gov. Sarah Palin of Alaska.

This past June the Androscoggin Valley Fish and Game Club sponsored a Women's Firearms Familiarization Program, teaching the half-dozen women participants how to safely handle and shoot a wide range of firearms. The instructors, all directors or members of the club, patiently gave the women one-on-one instruction when the six took aim at the targets. Far from trying to keep the art of shooting a male domain, the men seemed thrilled to be passing on their skills and knowledge to the women.

New Hampshire has more than 40 fish and game clubs and shooting ranges, giving everyone the opportunity to learn the

most basic skill, shooting, before taking to the woods in search of game. Also necessary before taking to the woods is a hunting license, and to obtain a hunting license it's necessary to take the hunting education course, the schedule for which is available on the state's Fish and Game Department Web site at wildlife.state.nh.us/.

Women can also take one of the seasonal Becoming an Outdoors-Woman sessions. Co-sponsored by the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department and the N.H. Wildlife Federation, the fall session recently covered firearms use, along with archery and fly-fishing. The upcoming winter session includes ice fishing, winter survival skills and "shoe and shoot." <http://www.newhampshire.com/article.aspx?headline=More+women+find+hunting+a+way+to+keep+the+table+full&articleid=2399>

08/09/24 Officer killed in North Philadelphia

NORTH PHILADELPHIA - September 23, 2008 (WPVI) -- Two Philadelphia highway patrol officers were shot and one was killed after a shooting Tuesday afternoon in North Philadelphia.

The officer who was killed has been identified as 30-year-old Patrick McDonald. He was an 8 year veteran of the force and was unmarried.

The gunman has been identified as 27-year-old Daniel Giddings. **Giddings was recently released from prison for aggravated assault with a gun**, and was wanted for assaulting four police officers after he was stopped for a traffic violation.

He managed to escape and was being sought when he was stopped by Officer McDonald at 17th and Dauphin around 1:45 p.m. after a report of a man with a gun.

According to police, Officer McDonald pulled over a car with Giddings and a woman inside.

Giddings made a run for it, and a wild foot chase began. It continued into the 2200 block of Colorado Street, where Officer McDonald was shot repeatedly in the chest at point-blank range.

A witness, who did not want to be identified, told Action News what she heard.

"We heard two voices and we thought they were getting ready to argue so we came to the door," the witness said. "Then we heard shots ring out, so we ran into the kitchen."

After shooting McDonald, police say Giddings punched a teen on a bike, and tried to make his escape. That's when he encountered highway patrol officer Richard Bowes.

Giddings was cut down in a hail of bullets in the 2200 block of N. 17th Street, a few feet from Officer McDonald's patrol car.

Bowes, a 12 year veteran of the force with a wife and three children was shot in the leg. He was taken to the hospital in stable condition.

Philadelphia police officers could still be seen Tuesday wearing black bands around their badges. They're wearing them in honor of Officer Isabel Nazario who was killed in a crash while pursuing a suspect back on September 5th.

Officers wear those black bands for a 30 day period. This marks the first time since the 1940's that two Philadelphia police officers have been killed in separate incidents the line of duty in 30 days.

"We cannot continue this kind of activity and behavior in this city," said Mayor Michael Nutter. "I do not know what is going through the minds of some of these individuals out here."

Shortly after the shooting, Bishop Joseph McFadden went to police headquarters, on behalf of Cardinal Justin Rigali, who's headed to Rome.

He spoke with the family of Officer McDonald.

McFadden says they're stricken with grief, but coping as best as can be imagined.

Officer McDonald's brother died a little while ago. He's survived by a sister, his mother, and his father.

Police officers lined up near Temple University Hospital, paying their respects as a hearse carried McDonald's body to the medical examiner's office.

Action News is told Officer McDonald was a talented athlete. He played football in high school, and for the past five years he played for the fire and police football league.

The league raised money for charity, including one that raises money for families of fallen police officers.

We're also told McDonald had a girlfriend who is a police officer in Northeast Philadelphia.

It has been a violent year for the Philadelphia Police Department.

Besides the crash that killed Officer Nazario, two other officers were killed since last October.

On May 3rd, 2008, Police Sergeant Stephen Liczbinski was shot and killed while responding to a robbery at a supermarket bank in Port Richmond

On Halloween, 2007, Officer Chuck Cassidy was shot in the head, and killed, when he walked into a robbery at a Dunkin <http://abclocal.go.com/wpvi/story?section=news/local&id=6408148>

08/09/23 Gunman opens fire at school in Finland, 9 dead

HELSINKI, Finland - A gunman opened fire at a vocational school for adults in western Finland on Tuesday before shooting himself, police said. Finnish media reported nine people were killed and the gunman was wounded.

The shootings began just before 11 a.m. local time as about 150 students went to class in Kauhajoki, 180 miles northwest of Helsinki. Witnesses said panic broke out as the hooded gunman entered the school and began firing.

"Within a short space of time I heard several dozen rounds of shots, in other words it was an automatic pistol," school janitor Jukka Forsberg told broadcaster YLE. "I saw some female students who were wailing and moaning and one managed to escape out of the back door."

YLE, citing police at the school, reported nine people were killed. The Finnish news agency STT said the school building was on fire and the gunman reportedly had explosives on him.

Jussi Muotio, superintendent of the Kauhajoki police, confirmed that several people had been wounded but could not immediately confirm the deaths. "The incident is over now," Muotio said.

Vesa Nyrhinen, detective superintendent from the local police, declined to say how seriously the gunman was injured. "He was wounded by his own bullets," he said.

College rector Timo Varmola told YLE there were 150 students in the school at the time.

The shootings happened almost a year after another gunman killed eight people and himself at a school in southern Finland, an attack that triggered a fierce debate about gun laws in this Nordic nation with deep-rooted traditions of hunting in the sub-Arctic wilderness.

With 1.6 million firearms in private hands, Finland is an anomaly in Europe, lagging behind only the United States and Yemen in civilian gun ownership, studies show.

Finnish media said YouTube clips of a man firing a gun appeared to be linked to the shooting. In one of them, a young man wearing a leather jacket fires several shots in rapid succession with a handgun at what appears to be a shooting range.

The posting was made five days before the shooting and the location was given as Kauhajoki. The posting included a message saying: "Whole life is war and whole life is pain. And you will fight alone in your personal war."

The person who posted the clip identified himself as a 22-year-old with the name "Mr. Saari." He also posted three other clips of himself firing a handgun in the past three weeks.

Clips from the 1999 Columbine school shootings in Colorado were listed among his favorite videos.

Police could not immediately confirm whether the postings were linked to Tuesday's shooting.

Last year, Pekka-Eric Auvinen, described by police as a bullied 18-year-old outcast, opened fire at his high school in southern Finland on Nov. 7. He killed six students, a school nurse and the principal before ending his own life with a gunshot to the head.

Finnish investigators have said Auvinen left a suicide note for his family and foreshadowed his attack in YouTube postings.

After Auvinen's rampage, the government said it would raise the minimum age for buying guns from 15 to 18, but insisted there was no need for sweeping changes to Finland's gun laws. http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080923/ap_on_re_eu/finland_school_shooting

08/09/22 Illinois State Rifle Association Urges Hunters and Sportsmen to Oppose Constitutional Convention

The ISRA is urging state hunters, sportsmen and gun owners to vote "NO" this November on a ballot initiative to hold a state constitutional convention. The ISRA believes that holding a constitutional convention would open the door to significant changes in the state constitution and thus imperil the rights of law-abiding gun owners.

"The delegate count in a constitutional convention would certainly be stacked in Chicago's favor," commented ISRA Executive Director, Richard Pearson. "Consequently, Mayor Daley would have carte blanche to craft the Illinois Constitution to his liking. Daley has said in the past that, if it were up to him, nobody would be allowed to own a gun. You can bet that if Daley is given the opportunity to meddle with the state constitution, he would seek that end."

"We understand that a lot of law-abiding gun owners feel that a constitutional convention would provide an opportunity to correct deficiencies in Section 22," continued Pearson. "Under

ideal circumstances, that opportunity would exist. However, as long as the Chicago Machine is in charge of the process, that just isn't going to happen."

The ISRA is the state's leading advocate of safe, lawful and responsible firearms ownership. Since 1903, the ISRA has represented the interests of over 1.5 million law-abiding Illinois gun owners.

<http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/stories.pl?ACCT=104&STORY=/www/story/09-22-2008/0004890105&EDATE=>

08/09/22 Wal-Mart as Role Model

New York City has a new weapon in its fight to stem the flow of illegal guns into the city: the Wal-Mart code.

On Monday, New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg is expected to announce a deal with the lone retailer that had continued battling a landmark lawsuit the city filed against a group of out-of-state gun dealers in 2006.

In an out-of-court settlement, the former holdout, Bob Moates Sport Shop, Midlothian, Va., agreed to tougher rules for selling guns, according to a copy of the agreement reviewed by The Wall Street Journal.

The new rules are based directly on stricter standards Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the nation's largest gun seller, adopted earlier this year in a voluntarily agreement with a gun-control group called Mayors Against Illegal Guns. Wal-Mart wasn't involved in the New York City lawsuit, but its gun-sales practices had come under scrutiny in recent years.

In 2006, New York City sued 27 mostly small gun retailers in Georgia, South Carolina, Virginia, Pennsylvania and Ohio, claiming their illegal gun sales and lax screening practices created a public nuisance in the city. Twenty of the 27 original defendants settled the case, giving a city-appointed monitor complete access to their stores for at least three years.

Three other retailers declined to defend themselves, making it likely the court will force them into a similar settlement. A judge dismissed the city's allegations against another three of the retailers named in the suit.

That left Bob Moates as the only active defendant in the case. But in a settlement Wednesday with New York City, the retailer agreed, among other things, to make and store video of gun purchases and keep an internal log of any gun it sells that is later used in a crime.

Before filing their 2006 lawsuits in federal court in Brooklyn, New York officials arranged sting operations conducted by private investigation firm James Mintz Group. The investigation concluded that many stores showed a willingness to participate in illegal straw purchases, in which one person buys a gun for another person who is legally barred from buying guns.

In a bid to stamp out that problem and come up with other "responsible" firearm sales practices, New York City's criminal justice coordinator, John Feinblatt, and other officials flew to Wal-Mart's Bentonville, Ark., headquarters, late last year, to consult with the chain's former head of compliance. The retailer has adopted stricter rules on gun sales.

In April, the discount chain became the first, and so far the only, gun retailer to voluntarily join a 10-point code known as the Responsible Firearms Retailer Partnership, which was

created by Bloomberg administration officials and Mayors Against Illegal Guns, a two-year-old coalition.

Among other things, Wal-Mart agreed to keep video surveillance tape of gun sales longer than the customary six months or less in the event that the tape could be helpful in tracking down a gun and owner involved in a crime. It also agreed to accept only valid federal- or state-issued picture IDs as primary identification for firearms purchases.

About four of the 10 reforms Wal-Mart agreed to -- including a computerized log of any of its guns traced to crimes -- haven't been implemented yet because they are "still in development" with the mayors' group, according to Wal-Mart spokesman David Tovar.

Wal-Mart currently sells guns in about 1,180 of its U.S. stores.

Mayor Bloomberg's legal campaign illustrates some of the growing legal and economic pressures on the nation's gun retailers, whose numbers already have dwindled sharply. Today, there are about 48,600 federally licensed "type one" firearms dealers. At their peak in the early 1990s, there were 248,155 such dealers, according to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

So far, no other city has replicated New York's legal assault on out-of-state retailers whose guns have been used in urban crimes, but gun-control advocates and big-city officials are paying close attention to what, if any, results come from the tougher gun-sales practices the suit encouraged.

The Bob Moates settlement is the first that city officials have linked to the Wal-Mart deal. The retailer agreed to post signs at its stores that say "Follow the Law, Don't Be a Straw!" and to use an employee training program that is "based on Wal-Mart's training program," the settlement document says.

From February 1994 through June 2002, at least 22 guns sold by Moates in Virginia were recovered by New York City in connection with violent crimes, according to the New York City lawsuit. They included several recovered within 18 months of their sales.

In 2005, Wal-Mart agreed to pay \$14.5 million to settle charges by the California attorney general that it committed "thousands of violations" of state gun-safety laws at five stores, including delivering firearms to 36 prohibited buyers through "straw purchases" carried out by relatives or friends.

Mr. Tovar of Wal-Mart said these were mostly "record-keeping issues." In 2006, Wal-Mart decided to stop selling shotguns and rifles in about a third of its U.S. stores in what it calls a marketing decision based on lack of demand in some places. And in 1994, it discontinued sales of handguns at all of its stores, except for special orders in Alaska.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122205134883761917.html>

08/09/21 Long-gun registry still pesters rural voters

HIGH RIVER, Alta - The sticker on the rear window of the blue Ford half-ton pickup sums up the views of its owner: "If They Take My Gun It Will Be HOT & EMPTY."

Don Wayne, 49, is a proud gun owner, a proud Conservative and a proud antagonist of the law that says he must register his impressive collection of rifles and shotguns.

"The only ones that are for it are people who don't have guns and don't like guns," Wayne says as he handles a 12-gauge pump

shotgun. "It has nothing to do with the gun owner and it has nothing to do with crime."

Public debate over the federal long-gun registry may have faded in recent years, but out West - and especially in rural areas like High River south of Calgary - it's still a hot topic of discussion during the election campaign.

Despite a series of amnesties the minority Conservative government has put in place that protect gun owners from prosecution, many who oppose the registry are upset that registration laws for rifles and shotguns remain on the books.

Some, like Wayne, doubt Stephen Harper and his Conservative party - hungry to build a better base of support in urban Ontario and Quebec - will follow through with scrapping the registry should they win a majority on Oct. 14.

"It's a shame that our government has been so God damn spineless over the years that they can't do what they say. They all brag about what they're going to do and they get in and they do nothing. They use these excuses that the opposition is holding them back," he said.

"That should be front and centre on his political agenda this time. He hasn't even mentioned it so it's been put on the back burner and he doesn't care."

The dispute over the gun registry dates back to the Liberal government of Jean Chretien and a decision to include long guns in the registration system that had long applied to handguns and assault-like weapons.

The most fervent critics were in the West - hunters and farmers who saw their guns as tools more than weapons.

The long-gun component of the registry was supposed to be largely self-financing beyond the \$2 million in start-up fees.

But in 2006, the auditor general found the actual cost of the registry was nearly \$1 billion for the first decade of operation.

In government, the minority Conservatives introduced legislation that would abolish the requirement to register long guns, but it was never brought to a vote because there was no support from the opposition parties.

Instead, the government instituted a series of amnesties and fee waivers that essentially protected long-gun owners from criminal liability for failing to register their firearms.

Conservatives acknowledge the discontent from some that the registry is still around.

"My constituents phone me on a regular basis and ask me why we haven't gotten it done," Alberta MP Ted Menzies confirmed in an interview prior to the election call.

And it doesn't appear the party has backed down from its position.

The Conservatives have quietly sent out brochures to specific rural ridings across the country promising that the gun registry will be dumped.

"We're scrapping it" says a brochure sent by Gord Brown, Conservative MP for Leeds-Grenville, a largely rural Ontario riding between Kingston and Ottawa.

"This Conservative government is scrapping the useless Liberal long-gun registry. We are taking real action to crack down on gun crime. We will not harass law-abiding hunters and farmers," it reads

It all boils down to politics, says Wendy Cukier, president of the Coalition for Gun Control, a professor at Ryerson University in Toronto and long-time proponent of the registry.

"They're using a very targeted strategy to communicate this position to selected voters and arguably not to draw attention to it in other parts of the country," Cukier says.

"There's a lot of effort to obscure what's going on with respect to firearms. I think Harper knows that while gun control may not be popular among his core voters - in order to get a majority, he needs to attract women voters, he needs to attract Quebecers and he needs to get more votes in big cities."

Despite the amnesties, the registry is still very much being used by police forces who access it 8,000 times a day, Cukier says.

Many detachments access the registry on a daily basis, confirmed an RCMP spokesman in Calgary.

"It is extremely useful, especially in domestic situations and an essential part of the checks before you arrive on the scene is to check for possible weapons," says Sgt. Patrick Webb.

"If it was abolished it would impact on the safety of attending a lot of these violent calls."

George Duffy, founder of Responsible Firearms Owners of Alberta, says gun owners have been finding ways around the registry.

"A lot of firearms owners went out and said, 'I own one gun or two guns' and they have 15. I would almost venture to say that about half of the firearms owners got licences just so they could buy ammunition," says Duffy who estimates only 20 per cent of the guns in Canada are registered.

Ted Feller, owner and operator of Marksman Guns and Sports Ltd. in Lethbridge, Alta., says his customers have "jumped through hoops" trying to obey the law, but doubts the benefit.

"There's no need for the long guns to be registered at all. They're just trying to track down where you or me are taking or storing our rifle or shotgun for hunting. There's no need for that at all," says Feller.

Wayne did register a new rifle that he bought recently, but what about his others?

"No. I've owned them for a lot of years and some were my dad's guns handed down, as well as my grandfather's shotgun," he says. "They say, 'well, you can't keep that stuff' - well, it's been in my family for a lot of years and it ain't going nowhere." <http://cnews.canoe.ca/CNEWS/Canada/CanadaVotes/News/2008/09/21/6832366-cp.html>

08/09/19 Pittsburgh targets youth crime

Pittsburgh Mayor Luke Ravenstahl, Allegheny County Executive Dan Onorato and City Councilman Ricky Burgess outlined a new approach to fighting crime today, modeled on an effort that pushed violence down dramatically in Boston a decade ago and has been used in numerous cities since.

Dubbed the Pittsburgh Initiative to Reduce Crime, the push is to be guided by Professor David Kennedy, of the City University of New York. He was a key strategist behind Boston's Operation Ceasefire when he was on Harvard University's staff.

Today he portrayed his strategy in simple terms: Identify the worst criminal groups responsible for more than half of the

violence, tell them that violence won't be tolerated and that there are other options and then follow through.

There will be sit-down meetings with key criminal "gangs, drug crews, sets, posses," said Mr. Kennedy. Police officials, ex-offenders and other community elders will be key emissaries. The message: "Our promise to you is, after we have this meeting, the first group that kills somebody, pack your toothbrush, because we're rolling you all up," he said. "You punish the entire group ... They start policing themselves."

To work, the approach requires coordination between all law enforcement agencies, researchers who can identify patterns in crime data, and social services like employment and drug counseling.

"The heavy lifting is putting that partnership together," said Mr. Kennedy. There will be a formal plan crafted that should be available to the public, he said.

Mr. Ravenstahl said the effort should start having an impact on the streets within six months. Community organizing starts with a series of meetings today.

"For me, reducing gun violence is not about politics," said Mr. Burgess, who campaigned last year on a pledge to bring the Boston approach here. "My mother-in-law was shot and killed ... The mayor and I want a future for Pittsburgh that is free from fear and full of hope."

Mr. Onorato pledged to take the approach countywide so criminals know they "can't just jump over and avoid this program we're putting together today."

In Boston, some of the keys were collaboration between city, county and federal law enforcement on hard-hitting responses to gang violence and on suppressing the illegal gun trade. Police were assigned to small areas so they could get to know the people better. Parole officers worked with police to get the word out that the city was serious, and to punish entire gangs for flare-ups.

The results, according to the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's studies, included a 71 percent decrease in homicides by people under 25 years old, and an overall 70 percent drop in gun assaults.

Mr. Kennedy has worked with San Francisco, Minneapolis, Indianapolis, Baltimore and other cities.

"If it is done with reasonable goodwill and if it is kept in place, you will get these too-good-to-be-true results," he said.

Mr. Ravenstahl has pledged \$160,000 in city funds and Mr. Burgess \$40,000 in council funds toward the costs of retaining Mr. Kennedy and the University of Pittsburgh's School of Social Work, which will participate in the research component. <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/08263/913455-100.stm>

08/09/18 ATF Lost Guns, Computers

418 Laptops Vanished in 5 Years; Contents Largely Unknown

Over a five-year period, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives lost dozens of weapons and hundreds of laptops that contained sensitive information, according to a scathing report issued yesterday by the Justice Department. Inspector General Glenn A. Fine identified "serious deficiencies" in ATF's response to lost or stolen items and called the agency's control of classified data "inadequate."

From 2002 to 2007, ATF lost 418 laptop computers and 76

weapons, according to the report. Two weapons were subsequently used to commit crimes. In one incident, a gun stolen from the home of a special agent was fired through the window of another home.

Ten firearms were "left in a public place." One of them was left on an airplane, three in bathrooms, one in a shopping cart and two on the top of cars as ATF employees drove away. A laptop also fell off the top of a car as an agent drove off.

Another weapon "fell into the water while an agent was fishing," according to the report.

"This seems like *deja vu* when you look back at previous reports outlining the same missteps by DOJ law enforcement agencies in 2001," said Sen. Charles E. Grassley (R-Iowa), who has criticized federal law enforcement agencies for failing to account for weapons and laptops. "Keeping track of government property may seem like housekeeping to some, but when it comes to guns and computers with sensitive information, it's critical to public safety, national security and the credibility of the ATF."

A regular audit of weapons and other sensitive items has been conducted since a study in 2001 revealed that the FBI and other agencies had misplaced hundreds of firearms.

Yesterday's report showed that ATF, a much smaller agency than the FBI, had lost proportionately many more firearms and laptops.

"It is especially troubling that that ATF's rate of loss for weapons was nearly double that of the FBI and [Drug Enforcement Administration], and that ATF did not even know whether most of its lost, stolen, or missing laptop computers contained sensitive or classified information," Fine wrote.

W. Larry Ford, assistant director of ATF's Office of Public and Governmental Affairs, said the agency "is committed to strengthening controls over weapons, laptops and ammunition by more strictly enforcing agency policies and by developing new procedures outlined in our response to the OIG."

Many of the missing laptops contained sensitive or classified material, according to the report. ATF began installing encryption software only in May 2007.

ATF did not know what information was on 398 of the 418 lost or stolen laptops. The report called the lack of such knowledge a "significant deficiency."

Of the 20 missing laptops for which information was available, ATF indicated that seven -- 35 percent -- held sensitive information.

One missing laptop, for example, held "300-500 names with dates of birth and Social Security numbers of targets of criminal investigations, including their bank records with financial transactions." Another held "employee evaluations, including Social Security numbers and other [personal information]." Neither laptop was encrypted.

ATF employees did not report the loss of 365 of the 418 laptops.

The report was less critical of ATF's control of explosives, but when the inspector general reviewed inventory records, he found that amounts "on hand did not correspond with the amounts recorded" in records at eight of 16 locations.

ATF investigates crime involving firearms and explosives, arson and trafficking of alcohol and tobacco. It was transferred

to the Justice Department from the Treasury Department in 2003, and the report contained implicit criticism of earlier auditing of the sensitive materials. ATF held "inaccurate data accumulated over several years," it said.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/17/AR2008091703662.html>

08/09/17 Mayors pledge to enact tough gun laws

READING - A regional coalition of mayors yesterday announced a joint effort to enact local gun legislation, following the lead of Philadelphia officials.

Members of the coalition, PA Mayors for Gun Safety, pledged to introduce legislation in their cities that would require gun owners to report lost or stolen weapons or be subject to possible fines and/or jail time.

The announcement was made at a news conference at City Hall here. The group includes Mayor Nutter and the mayors of Allentown, Bethlehem, Easton, Lancaster, Reading, Pottsville and York.

The mayors said they were following in the footsteps of Philadelphia, which passed legislation involving lost or stolen weapons in April.

"Are we going to sit there and wait for the state to give us the laws, or are we going to do something about it?" said Mayor Sal Panto of Easton. "Thankfully, Philadelphia has done something about it."

The group initiative is not only a proposal to reduce gun violence in the cities but also an effort to put pressure on the legislature to enact statewide gun legislation, the mayors said.

The coalition evolved out of work done by the mayors as part of a gun-violence task force within the Pennsylvania League of Cities and Municipalities. The mayors - all Democrats - said they would introduce legislation in their cities over the next several weeks. They also said that they were prepared to be sued.

C. Scott Shields, an attorney for the National Rifle Association, argued that the proposed legislation violates state law that prevents local governments from enacting their own gun legislation. Proposed legislation that would have empowered local governments to enact gun-control laws was defeated last year.

Shields said the NRA would likely sue the municipalities if they enacted what he termed "illegal gun laws."

Nutter argued that the state legislation that limits the power of local governments to pass gun legislation governs "lawful weapons." The legislation proposed by the mayors' coalition involves "lost or stolen weapons," Nutter said.

In April, Nutter signed five gun laws, three of which Judge Jane Cutler Greenspan upheld in Common Pleas Court after legal challenges by the NRA. The city and the NRA have filed separate appeals in Commonwealth Court of Greenspan's rulings.

One of the upheld laws gives gun owners 24 hours to report stolen weapons after the owners discover the firearms are missing. Failure to comply could result in fines up to \$1,900 and 90 days in jail. The law went into effect last month.

Legislation to be proposed by the coalition of mayors would require reporting within 72 hours of discovery and would impose fines of up to \$1,000 and 90 days in jail.

Several gun-control measures considered by the state assembly since November have been defeated, including a proposal that would require mandatory reporting of lost or stolen weapons. But a bill increasing penalties against "straw" purchasers, who buy guns for felons, passed the state House in April.

Nutter and Mayor Tom McMahon of Reading said they hoped to expand the coalition to include mayors regardless of their political party from other cities, including Pittsburgh, Erie and Williamsport.

http://www.philly.com/philly/news/local/20080917_Mayors_pledge_to_enact_tough_gun_laws.html

08/09/16 Right name, wrong guy in gun case

A city police lieutenant yesterday swore that Lavelle Johnson Jr., the man standing to his right wearing an Allegheny County Jail jumpsuit, was the man he arrested June 9 for illegal gun possession.

But it turned out to be the wrong Lavelle Johnson.

Lt. Andrew Lisiecki described an incident in which he and other narcotics officers approached the suspect, who was sitting, shirtless, on a chair outside on Rhine Place in Spring Hill.

As the officers approached, the suspect got up, grabbed a white T-shirt and began to walk away until he was ordered by police to stop.

Inside the shirt officers found a .380-caliber pistol.

As the officer spoke, the suspect leaned toward his attorney, Assistant Public Defender Jessica Herndon, whispering and shaking his head.

On cross-examination, Ms. Herndon pointed out that her 16-year-old client claimed to have already been in jail on June 9, the day of the gun arrest. He was being held on \$20,000 bond in connection with a carjacking at gunpoint last December in Wilkensburg.

Jail records confirmed this, and Senior District Judge Richard H. Zoller discontinued the preliminary hearing.

Less than an hour later, county sheriff's deputies escorted another Lavelle Johnson, 24, into the courtroom.

Their two cases are unrelated.

Lt. Lisiecki testified that the suspect admitted he possessed the firearm.

Judge Zoller ordered the older Lavelle Johnson to trial on the weapons charge. He was returned to the county jail, where he was held on \$25,000 bond.

Ms. Herndon said defense attorneys may try in Common Pleas Court to dismiss the case because of the faulty identification.

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/08260/912443-53.stm>

08/09/15 OPINION: Another hero with a gun

Once again, a gun in the hands of a brave, daring and selfless hero has resolved a violent crime in Colorado Springs. As so often is the case when a gun foils a crime, no shot was ever fired. The gun brought civility where mayhem previously reigned.

Colorado Springs Police report that Russell Bowman, a self-proclaimed "atheist," showed up with a large knife at the at a woman's apartment in the 700 block of Tia Juana Street at about 3:15 a.m. Saturday. Police said Bowman wanted to behead two women because they were Christians. (Will this be classified a

"hate crime" motivated by religion?)

Police suspect alcohol may have played a role.

As Bowman threatened the women, another resident of the apartment building grabbed a shotgun and ordered Bowman to drop the knife. The power of a gun put a hero in charge of the situation, because of its enormous potential stopping power. Bowman refused the order and approached the gun-wielding hero.

So what did the hero do, armed with a weapon that could have removed a good portion of Bowman's head? He whacked the criminal with the butt of the gun - a polite response, considering the circumstances. As that got the job done, the hero never resorted to using the business end of the weapon.

The hero would have been perfectly justified in shooting Bowman, in defense of himself and others, but he risked using lesser force and the risk paid off. This makes him even more of a hero. Bowman was stopped, and he's alive. Doctors at Memorial Hospital told police Bowman's eye was so badly damaged by the butt of the gun that it will have to be removed. That's a shame, but it beats a trip to the morgue.

The Department of Justice has estimated that citizens use guns to defend themselves in United States more than 1.5 million time each year. Other studies have put the number higher and lower. Whatever the true number is, these incidents are routine and almost never make the news. When they do, it's important to remember how the Second Amendment keeps this country civilized and free.

http://www.gazette.com/opinion/bowman_40589_article.html/hero_gun.html

08/09/14 Mississippi Democrat pushing for gun rights

Childers to introduce measure to curb D.C. weapons restrictions

To the dismay of the Washington, D.C., police chief and others who are trying to limit gun ownership in the nation's capital, Rep. Travis Childers is pressing legislation that would rollback restrictions.

Childers, a Democrat from Prentiss County, won a special election in May to represent the 1st District. He hopes to offer his bill this week as an amendment to a much narrower bill sponsored by Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton, D-D.C.

Childers says his legislation is needed to comply with the Supreme Court's ruling in June that the city's wide-ranging gun ban violates the Second Amendment's right to bear arms.

"While I do not condone Washington, D.C.'s lack of congressional representation, I do support the Supreme Court's ruling," Childers said in a statement. "D.C. city officials have since enacted gun control laws that defy this ruling, and I am committed to making sure that American citizens retain the ability to defend themselves, as it is laid out in the Constitution."

The debate is about how far Congress should go to require Washington, D.C., to comply with the Supreme Court ruling.

Norton's bill would require the city government to establish ways for its residents to lawfully purchase and carry guns within 180 days of becoming law but would not dictate how to do so.

Childers' bill is much more detailed. It would allow District of Columbia residents to own a wide variety of handguns and rifles

- only sawed-off rifles, machine guns and short-barreled rifles would be banned.

It also would remove criminal penalties for anyone owning an unregistered gun.

But Doug Pennington, spokesman for the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, said the most controversial aspect of Childers' bill is that it would allow semiautomatic assault rifles on Washington's streets.

Testifying before a House panel this week, D.C. Police Chief Cathy Lanier said she had "grave concerns" about that.

Lanier said "it would be difficult for law enforcement to safeguard the public, not to mention the new president at the inaugural parade" if semiautomatic rifles were to become legal in the city again.

Pennington also said Childers' bill violates the city's sovereignty.

"Would Travis Childers appreciate Congress writing laws for any municipality in his district?" he asked.

The city has home rule, but its budget is under the control of Congress.

Childers' bill is co-sponsored by dozens of Democrats, many of them conservatives who are at odds with fellow Democrats who favor gun regulation.

Childers said recently week he's taken "various punches from the national media and gun rights opponents" for his legislation.

"Some have accused my bill of intentionally stripping (Washington, D.C.) of its control over gun regulation," Childers said. "I assure the city that the legislation's only purpose is to restore the rights of gun owners."

<http://www.clarionledger.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080914/NEWS/809140368/1001/news>

08/09/13 Judge: Norfolk gun law OK, but not request for private info

The arrest of a man for openly carrying a gun at a Norfolk festival did not violate the U.S. Constitution but the police officer who asked for the man's Social Security number might have violated his civil rights, a federal judge ruled this week.

Chester "Chet" Szymecki Jr. of Yorktown sued the city after his arrest in June 2007 on a charge of violating a city ordinance prohibiting firearms at Harborfest, held annually at Town Point Park.

Szymecki, a gun rights advocate, has challenged handgun bans in the past. During his arrest, Szymecki claims police pushed him and that when he complained that the handcuffs were on too tight, an officer made them tighter.

During his arrest and later, when he was released from custody, police asked him for his Social Security number. He initially balked, but gave it to the officers to avoid being detained longer, he says in his suit.

The charge was later thrown out after city officials learned that it violated a state law that prohibits localities from regulating firearms.

Szymecki sued in federal court claiming multiple constitutional violations, including the Second Amendment's right to keep and bear arms and the Fourth Amendment prohibition against unlawful searches and seizures.

U.S. District Judge Henry Coke Morgan Jr. ruled Thursday that Szymecki cannot sue claiming constitutional violations

under state or local law. Morgan ruled earlier this year that the city did not violate the Second Amendment for the same reason.

"It is well settled law in this circuit that the Second Amendment does not apply to the states," Morgan wrote in dismissing Szymecki's constitutional claims. "Because the Second Amendment does not apply to the states, neither a state law nor a local ordinance can run afoul of any right guaranteed by the Second Amendment."

However, Morgan ruled that the police demand for Szymecki's Social Security number - if the allegation is true - would have violated the federal Privacy Act.

Morgan will allow the case to go to trial on that issue alone. The trial has been set for Dec. 16.

<http://hamptonroads.com/2008/09/judge-norfolk-gun-law-ok-not-request-private-info>

08/09/11 Female Firearm Trafficker Sentenced to 4 Years

CLEVELAND, Sept. 11 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- U.S. District Judge John R. Adams sentenced Antrinna Collins of Cleveland, to 48 months imprisonment for violations of federal firearms laws. The Sept. 8, 2008, sentencing was announced today by

William Edwards, Acting U.S. Attorney and Christopher P. Sadowski, Special Agent in Charge, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Columbus Field Division.

Collins was tried and convicted by a jury in May 2008 of two counts of making false statements in the acquisition of firearms, in violation of 18 U.S.C. SS 922(a)(6), and one count of unlawful transfer of a firearm to a felon, in violation of 18 U.S.C. SS 922(d).

The evidence presented at trial showed that on Oct. 22 and 23, 2005, Collins purchased three semi-automatic pistols and three AK-47 semi-automatic assault style rifles at the Cuyahoga County gun show in Berea, Ohio. One of the pistols Collins purchased was used by a convicted felon in a shooting 27 days after Collins purchased the firearm. Two individuals were later convicted of attempted murder and felonious assault in connection with the shooting.

Collins admitted she gave one of the three pistols to her husband in Nov. 2005, less than a month after purchasing it at the gun show. Collins knew her husband was a convicted felon and prohibited from possessing firearms. Collins' husband was found in possession of another pistol she had purchased in June 2007; as a result he was convicted of having a weapon while under a disability. The evidence at trial also showed that Collins purchased a pistol in 2000 and that her husband was found possessing the firearm 21 days after her purchase.

"At the sentencing hearing Judge Adams noted, among other lawful factors, that escalating gun crimes and violence were factors he considered in determining the sentence. The sentence imposed by the Court reflects a sentence nearly twice the sentence recommended by the Federal Sentencing Guidelines and acknowledges the egregious nature of Collins' actions," said Edwards.

"A person that purchases firearms and places them in the hands of convicted felons and violent criminals is only steps away from helping the criminal pull the trigger and commit an

act of violence. The stiff sentence imposed in this case recognizes the severity of the crime," said Sadowski.

Contact:

William Edwards

Acting U.S. Attorney 216.622.3600

Special Agent Kim Riddell

ATF PIO 614.827.8400

http://www.examiner.com/p-225428~Female_Firearm_Trafficker_Sentenced_to_4_Years.html

08/09/10 NJIT gets \$250K to keep developing child-proof 'smart gun'

The Department of Justice has awarded a \$254,889 federal grant to the New Jersey Institute of Technology so the Newark university can continue developing its child-proof "smart gun" technology, members of New Jersey's congressional delegation announced today.

NJIT has spent the last nine years on a "dynamic grip recognition" technology that can identify gun owners based on how they squeeze the trigger. The technology uses sensors located in the gun to identify unconscious, reflexive actions unique to each person and then decides whether the gunman is authorized to fire the weapon.

University officials say it works 99 percent of the time when paired with an off-the-shelf handgun outfitted with green and red lights to indicate whether the embedded circuitry decided to fire or not. They have tested it successfully with shooters wearing gloves, under timed conditions to simulate stressful conditions and using alternate hands.

They plan to use the \$254,889 federal grant to develop a working handgun prototype that includes an electronic firing mechanism, said Donald Sebastian, senior vice president for research and development at NJIT. Having a prototype with an electronic firing mechanism would free up space in the handgun for the computer circuitry and battery needed to operate the "dynamic grip recognition."

"The project team looks forward to using this new grant to solve the challenge of adding firing control to produce a complete prototype weapon that validates the child-safe handgun concept," he said.

The funding was added as an earmark to last year's annual Congressional appropriation bill by U.S. Senators Frank R. Lautenberg (D-NJ) and Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and U.S. Rep. Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-8th District).

"Smart gun technology holds the potential to dramatically reduce the number of children involved in handgun related shootings," said Pascrell. "From aspirin containers, to cigarette lighters and baby car seats, the government has wisely implemented safety guidelines. Yet handguns, which kill a staggering number of kids, have been off limits to safety improvements. With this critical grant funding, NJIT will continue its national leadership in developing safer, smarter guns."

http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2008/09/njit_gets_250k_to_kep_develop.html

08/09/09 City policeman held for trial in South Side assault

A suspended Pittsburgh police officer today was ordered to trial on charges he accosted and wounded a bystander the officer believed had assaulted him minutes before on the South Side in June.

Paul Abel, an eight-year veteran of the city's police force, remains free on bond pending trial on charges of aggravated assault, reckless endangerment and drunken driving.

The charges stem from a fracas that began around 2 a.m. June 28 when Officer Abel, who was off duty, attempted to arrest Caleb Miller, 21, across 19th Street from Mr. Miller's residence.

Mr. Miller was among five prosecution witnesses who testified today at a preliminary hearing. He said he recognized Officer Abel and he immediately tried to surrender with his hands up.

He testified that Mr. Abel pulled out his service pistol, jammed it in the victim's face and tried to force him to lie on the ground. In the process, while striking Mr. Miller on the back of the head with the gun, the firearm discharged.

A bullet struck Mr. Miller's right hand, causing minor nerve damage that is expected to heal.

Assistant District Attorney Matthew Wholey amended the complaint before today's hearing to include reckless endangerment.

District Judge Charles McLaughlin held the drunken driving charge for trial because, at the scene, Mr. Abel's field sobriety tests showed signs of impairment, and his blood-alcohol was calculated at 0.111.

Mr. Abel has been suspended from the force, pending trial and the outcome of an internal police investigation.

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/08253/910637-100.stm>

08/09/07 Gun buyback shut down after 30 minutes

Blue Island police shut down a "Turn in Your Gun Day" Saturday organized by a mayoral hopeful.

Tommy Brown, 38, offered \$100 for every gun turned in from 9 a.m. to noon at the Redemption Theater, 12952 S. Western Ave.

Brown, who has lived in the city his entire life, said he's doing what he thinks is best.

"I'm doing what I feel is proactive to get the guns off the streets," Brown said. "Today we have taken nine guns off the streets of Blue Island."

John Castilla, a friend and business partner of Brown, said he helped raise \$10,000 for the event. Castilla hoped to collect 100 guns.

However, Blue Island Police Chief Douglas Hoglund shut down the event just 30 minutes after it began. Hoglund said the building didn't have a business license and no one authorized by a law enforcement agency was there to take possession of the traded-in guns.

"Any transfer of firearms that doesn't go to a state agency is a Class 1 felony," Hoglund said.

Brown was warned beforehand by the city not to conduct the firearm trade-in event, but he went ahead anyway.

Hoglund said he's known Brown since he was a kid and understands what he's trying to do, but he doesn't completely agree.

"I agree with the premise of taking the guns off the streets," he

said. "But I don't agree with the method."

Brown said the nine guns collected would have been taken to Springfield to be tested in a lab. However, Hoglund took the guns and said they eventually will be destroyed.

About 25 people attended the event to show their support for Brown, who hopes to unseat Mayor Donald Pelouin.

Rev. Rod Reinhart, of St. Joseph & St. Aidan's Episcopal Church in Blue Island, believes it's events like Brown's that help to keep the city safe.

"We're a city that has not had the same kind of terrible violence as Chicago, and that's because the citizens of Blue Island have taken a proactive stance to stop potential violence before it starts," he said.

Some believe the grass-roots event is just what the city needs.

"The reason why I support this gun turn-in program is because I'm aware of the gang violence in Blue Island, and any gun off the street is one gun that won't be used in crime. We owe it to ourselves, and we owe it to our children," Blue Island resident Kathy Kuehner said.

Ron Smith, 40, of Blue Island, said he supports Brown.

"We hope ... you go buy groceries or something (with the money)," Smith said.

Pelouin said for the past six months the city has been working with other local towns, police departments and the sheriff's police to organize a regional gun turn-in event similar to Brown's.

<http://www.southtownstar.com/news/11...uyback.article>

08/09/04 Four held in Amsterdam and 165 firearms seized

Dutch police said today they are questioning three men and a woman after seizing a massive cache of weapons in Amsterdam as part of an international investigation into organised crime in Ireland.

The 165 firearms were put on display in Amsterdam as gardaí in Dublin revealed arms seized as part of the same operation in Dublin on Tuesday night.

The Dublin cache was described as the biggest haul of gangland weaponry in the history of the State following the four-month international operation into the activities of a leading Dublin criminal.

Forty-one firearms, mostly destined for crime gangs in Dublin and Limerick, were seized in the operation which involved police and customs from the Republic, Northern Ireland and the Netherlands.

The investigation, codenamed Operation Bench, also resulted in the seizure of heroin and cannabis valued at €4.2 million in a car near Dublin airport on Tuesday.

Some 27 weapons were found in the same vehicle with another 14 guns recovered in Belfast by the Police Service of Northern Ireland. Ammunition for the weapons, totalling about 1,000 rounds, was also found.

A total of three people were held by gardaí and another in Belfast.

Police in Amsterdam said today they had also detained four after they found the weapons haul in an office building. It included Glock pistols, Steyr sub-machine guns and silencers.

The men - aged 41, 42, and 53 - and a 27-year-old woman have not been identified, but Dutch police said they were arrested on suspicion of possession and sale of illegal firearms.

The National Prosecutor's Office said the arrests followed a tip-off from authorities in Northern Ireland who, along with the Garda, have led a crackdown on a drug and gun trafficking gang operating across Europe.

The three arrested men are Dutch, while the woman is Brazilian.

The weapons, 165 in total, were found following a planned raid on a metal factory in Amsterdam and searches at three houses.

Seventy guns were found in plastic shopping bags lying in the back of a car in a car park beside the factory. The rest of the cache was found hidden in the basement. Thousands of rounds of ammunition were also seized.

A spokesman for the Dutch National Prosecutor's Office said: "A lot of the guns were brand new, including five machine guns." Some €20,000 in cash was also seized by Dutch police.

Commenting on the haul, Fine Gael justice spokesman Charlie Flanagan said it "exposes the scale of gangland's threat to law and order and the Irish State".

"These state-of-the-art weapons would have caused untold bloodshed and misery if they had reached their destination in Ireland. Disturbingly, this particular shipment may only be the tip of the iceberg."

He continued: "The Irish prison system seems to have been transformed into a control centre for certain gangland bosses. The black hole in prison security exposed by this arms shipment completely undermines the purpose of the penal system."

He called on Minister for Justice Dermot Ahern to take "concrete steps" to prevent "gangland spreading its influence further" in the State's prisons.

PSNI Chief Constable, Sir Hugh Orde also paid tribute to the role played by his officers in the seizure.

Mr Orde said the operation was the culmination of a long-running and complex investigation.

"People will now be alive in the Republic of Ireland, the United Kingdom and Europe as a result of this and many serious crimes won't be committed," he said. "This was certainly one of the most significant operations in recent history."

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/breaking/2008/0904/breaking42.htm>

08/08/29 Federal firearms act cannot be used in case

The Meade county grand jury that indicted a Seattle police officer for bringing a gun into a Sturgis bar in the early morning hours of Aug. 9 could not have used the federal Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act of 2004 to exonerate him, a spokeswoman for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives said Thursday.

Congress passed that law in the wake of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, to exempt qualified law enforcement officers from state laws that prohibit the carrying of a concealed weapon. But because the legislation was never implemented by its rule-making agency - the U.S. Attorney General's office -- the Meade County grand jury could not have used it in any case to defend the actions of Seattle policeman Ronald Smith, according to Carrie DiPirro, public information officer in the Denver office of

the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Nowhere in America would that act have been considered by a grand jury, DiPirro said.

“The act was passed, but it’s never been enforced by the Attorney General’s office,” she said. Congress directed the U.S. Attorney General’s office to meet the conditions for its implementation – such as establishing the necessary databases and identifications -- something which DiPirro said apparently has never been done.

The Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act amended the federal criminal code to authorize qualified law enforcement officers (including certain qualified retired officers) carrying the photographic identification issued by their governmental agency, notwithstanding state or local laws, to carry a concealed firearm. That authorization is not intended to supersede state laws that permit private entities to prohibit the possession of concealed firearms on their property, or prohibit the possession of firearms on state or local government property. The law also would not cover any officer under the influence of alcohol and it excludes from the definition of “firearm” any machine gun, firearm silencer, or destructive device.

Smith and four other men were charged on two alternative

concealed weapon permit violations. According to the South Dakota Secretary of State’s Web site, Washington and South Dakota do not have reciprocity of concealed weapons permits, but Attorney General Larry Long said Thursday he could not immediately confirm that.

“We’re not sure if Washington is or not,” Long said.

The grand jury issued alternative concealed weapon permit indictments for Smith and the others. The men could be convicted of carrying a concealed pistol without permit or failing to abide by a permit of a reciprocal state, but not both counts, Long said.

<http://www.rapidcityjournal.com/arti...d898298826.txt>

Founding Fathers Intent:

As Mr. Webster warned so long ago, “Hold on, my friends, to the Constitution and to the republic for which it stands. Miracles do not cluster, and what has happened once in 6000 years, may not happen again.”