

POINT BLANK

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



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IN THIS ISSUE

Gun Grabbers on the March	1
Chicago Alderman's Hypocrisy	2
Mayor Daley's RKBA Bias	3
More Mayor Bloomberg	4
Lautenberg Back Door Registration	5
Citizen Action Project	5
Defender of the Month	6
Quick Shots	7

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GUN GRABBERS ON THE MARCH

The gun grabbers are out in force to undermine if not eviscerate the Second Amendment civil right of law-abiding Americans to keep and bear arms.

Despite some significant good news for the cause of Americans' gun rights, the gun grabbers have not given up and do not intend to give up their nefarious campaign to disarm the law-abiding American citizenry.

As a recent indication of gun grabbers' hatred of the Second Amendment which protects the rights of our law-abiding armed citizenry, we have only to consider last month's request by lawyers for anti-gun New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg that anti-gun activist federal Judge Jack B. Weinstein ban any reference to the Second Amendment during a civil lawsuit trial.

The billionaire anti-gun mayor of the Big Apple for years now has been organizing mayors in other cities in a concerted effort to promote a number of restrictive anti-gun measures in the U.S. Congress. Bloomberg and the others want to make it possible for anti-gun local officials to acquire access to firearms trace data intended exclusively for law-enforcement purposes so that they can use the information in harassing third-party lawsuits against law-abiding firearm manufacturers, importers, distributors and dealers.

CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb stated last month that Bloomberg's attempt to keep all mention of the Second Amendment out of a court proceeding constituted a move from outrage to atrocity. "Bloomberg wants a gag order," said Gottlieb. "Bloomberg missed his calling. Instead of being mayor, he should have been the administrator of a gulag."

As bad as Bloomberg is, he may not be the worst or most prominent anti-gun public figure on the American scene today. Consider the assumed front-runner for the Democrat Party presidential nomination, Sen. Barack Hussein Obama of Illinois.

Although Obama in recent months has been attempting to down play his opposition to American gun rights in an obvious scrounging for gun owners' votes, his public record reveals his cynical hypocrisy in this regard.

As an Illinois State Senator just four years ago, he voted against a proposal to protect citizens who use handguns in self-defense in their homes or businesses regardless of local handgun bans. Six years before that, he promised to support a ban on the sale or transfer of all forms of semiautomatic firearms. More recently, according to the *Chicago Tribune*, "Obama said he opposed allowing ordinary citizens to carry concealed weapons and that a federal law banning concealed carried weapons except for law enforcement is needed."

Make no mistake about it. The gun grabbers are out in force and they are in positions of great power and influence. They are seeking ever greater positions of power and influence.

CCRKBA SAYS CHICAGO ALDERMAN SHOULD SUFFER LIKE OTHER GUN OWNERS

Chicago Alderman Richard Mell ought to be prosecuted like any other negligent gun owner for failing to re-register his firearms under an ordinance he helped pass, the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms said.

"I don't care if anti-gun Mayor Richard Daley supports giving Mell a break, and it doesn't matter that Mell is the father-in-law of Gov. Rod Blagojevich," said CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb. "For years, the draconian ordinance supported by Mell and enforced by Daley has terrorized Chicago gun owners. It's time for Mell to face his own music, and it's time for Daley to just shut up."

Mell has proposed an amendment to the existing law that would allow gun registration to re-open for a month, giving him amnesty. Mell and Daley are claiming that this is for other gun owners in the city as well who may have let their registrations lapse.

"For years, the Daley Administration has engaged in goon squad demagoguery against gun owners," Gottlieb observed, "but now all of a sudden, just because Alderman Mell finds himself on the wrong side of a law he supported, he and Daley want to do Chicago gun owners a favor. This magnanimity is a flimsy sham, and law-abiding firearm owners all over Illinois should be outraged."

"It is equally outrageous that Mell is blaming this lapse on an aide," he added. "How stupid is that? Mell knows that gun owners are personally responsible for re-registering their firearms, and over the years, the city has shown no mercy for others who have failed to comply with the law. This guy shouldn't be on the city council, he ought to be in an unemployment line, and even more than that, he ought to be facing charges in court for possession of unregistered guns inside the city."

"The sad fact is," Gottlieb con-

cluded, "that this proposed amnesty amendment would never be on the table if it weren't designed specifically to help Alderman Mell. That anyone else might benefit is an accident, and both Mell and Daley know it. Other gun owners should be allowed to re-register, but Mell should lose on this sweetheart deal. Perhaps then he will fully understand just how insidious Chicago's gun laws really are, and he will lead the fight to abolish them."



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CCRKBA HITS DALEY ON ARMS HYPOCRISY

CCRKBA last month blasted anti-gun Mayor Richard Daley of Chicago for the rank hypocrisy on firearms he manifested as the Windy City's chief executive.

CCRKBA noted that Daley has taken one more step toward turning his city into a police state by planning to give police fully automatic M4 carbines while still fighting to block the gun rights of citizens not only in Chicago but throughout the entire state of Illinois.

"Here's one of the most anti-gun mayors in this nation, who has been trying to ban common semiautomatic rifles for years, but now he's rushing to turn his police into a paramilitary force doing battle against street gangs and other criminals," said CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb, co-author of *America Fights Back: Armed Self-Defense in a Violent Age*. "Yet this guy works overtime to make it impossible for average citizens to protect themselves against the same criminal element."

Gottlieb's comments came on the heels of an announcement that Daley supported a plan by Chicago Police Superintendant Jody Weiss to equip and train the police department's 13,500 officers with the M4 carbines.

The Chicago announcement did not provide details about when the change would occur and who would pay for the firearms.

ABC local news reported that, "The idea came as a surprise to many, since Chicago Mayor Richard Daley is a vocal gun control proponent."

Daley said at a news conference that the M4 carbines "will be seldom used," and added that, while he is an advocate of gun control, the de-

cision to equip officers with the M4 carbines was "not difficult." He said "the weapons of criminals are getting bigger and bigger."

Currently, Chicago police SWAT teams are equipped with M4 carbines, but police officers carry handguns.

Gottlieb stated that, "If Daley thinks turning Chicago neighborhoods into gulags, where only police have guns, is going to keep people safe, he is horribly mistaken. They tried it in Washington, D.C. and it's been a disaster!"

"Daley has decried the violence in Chicago, but the mayor seems to ignore the likelihood that it is his own urban policies that have made the Windy City so dangerous. The good citizens of Chicago deserve the chance to fight back and make a difference. Instead, Daley sends lobbyists to Springfield to erode the gun rights of Chicago residents and all Illinois citizens, leaving them first defenseless, and now likely to be caught in a cross fire."

One of Daley's outspoken gun control supporters is Rev. Michael Pfleger, Pastor of St. Sabina's Church, a Chicago parish which describes itself as a "Bible-teaching" African-American Catholic Church. A few months ago, Pfleger invited Daley to speak on gun control at the church, and the two of them vented their spleens for gun control.

This is the same Pfleger who a year ago seemed to call for the murder of a suburban gun shop owner, according to the Illinois State Rifle Association (ISRA).

During a Rainbow/PUSH Coalition protest at Chuck's Gun Shop & Range in suburban Chicago in May of 2007,

Pfleger threatened to "snuff" shop owner John Riggio. ISRA posted online what it said was a recording of Pfleger's remarks.

In the audio clip, Pfleger was heard being introduced to the crowd by the Rev. Jesse Jackson, the leader of the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition.

Pfleger said, "I want the NRA to understand—you have a lot of money, but money can't buy moral authority and it can't buy justice or freedom, and we will fight you, NRA."

"We will fight you...we will embarrass you, and we will embarrass every legislator that takes money from you. We will call them out by name, by district. We will expose you, legislators."

Pfleger then turned his attention to Riggio. "He's the owner of Chuck's. John Riggio. R-i-g-g-i-o. We're going to find you and snuff you out... you know you're going to hide like a rat. We're going to catch you and pull you out. We are not going to allow you to continue to hide when you're here..."

"We're going to keep coming back...we're going to snuff out John Riggio, we're going to snuff out legislators that are voting."

Gottlieb said last month that, "When Daley's solution to violence involves crackpots like Pfleger, the city is in trouble, and not just from criminals. It is time for a new approach, not one that turns police into an army of occupation, but one in which citizens can defend themselves and their families, without demagogues like Daley standing in their way."

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CCRKBA CHAIRMAN HAILS BLOOMBERG SUIT REJECTION

CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb said last month that the dismissal of a lawsuit filed against the firearms industry by anti-gun New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg should send a clear message that “court-house demagoguery and harassment of law-abiding business is not the responsible way to fight crime.”

The 2-1 opinion was written by U.S. Appeals Court Judge Robert J. Miner. It affirms the constitutionality of the 2005 Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act, which CCRKBA supported. It overturns a lower court ruling by activist federal judge Jack Weinstein, explaining that he should have dismissed the case instead of allowing it to go forward.

The court dismissed New York City’s claims against the manufacturers and wholesale sellers of firearms in states including Ohio, Georgia, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and Virginia.

The gun dealers and manufacturers had appealed Weinstein’s ruling that the courts had jurisdiction to hear the lawsuits because the city had shown gun dealers were responsible for funneling large quantities of handguns used by local criminals.

Judge Miner wrote that, “We think Congress clearly intended to protect from vicarious liability members of the firearms industry who engage in the ‘lawful design, manufacture, marketing, distribution, importation or sale’ of firearms.”

In dismissing the city’s claim that its suit fit within an exception to the act—a claim that would allow its case to go forward—the appellate court wrote that the statute was “intended to shield the firearms industry from the vicarious liability for harm caused

by firearms that were lawfully distributed into primary markets.”

The city said the New York State nuisance law makes it a crime to knowingly or recklessly create a condition endangering the safety or health of a considerable number of people. The appeals court said New York’s law does not qualify as an exception to federal law.

Gottlieb said the appellate court “ruling is clearly a defeat for Michael Bloomberg. The law trumps a billionaire’s arrogance and a federal judge’s long standing anti-gun activism. It is time for Bloomberg to grow up, and for Weinstein to step down.

“Judge Weinstein should certainly step aside from a case that will come before the court shortly on Bloomberg’s harassment lawsuit of firearms dealers in other states.”

Bloomberg said he was “disappointed in the court’s decision. Regardless of this ruling, we will continue our fight against illegal guns full bore—in the courtrooms, on the streets and in Congress.”

New York City Corporation Counsel Michael Cardozo, the lead plaintiff lawyer, said his office “is analyzing the decision” before deciding whether to appeal.

Gottlieb called the ruling a clear victory for America’s politically demonized firearms industry. He congratulated gun makers and the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF).

NSSF’s Senior Vice President and General Counsel, Lawrence Keane, said that the “ruling is very gratifying to members of the firearms industry. In passing the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act, Congress understood that frivolous lawsuits like

New York City’s defied common sense and represented a clear abuse of the judicial system that threatened to bankrupt a responsible and law-abiding industry.”

The lawsuit was first brought in June 2000 while Rudolph Giuliani was mayor. It was delayed due to the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and because of similar legislation in the state courts.

The city refiled the lawsuit in January 2004, saying manufacturers let handguns reach illegal markets at gun shows in which non-licensed people can sell to other private citizens, through private sales in which background checks are not required, by oversupplying markets where gun regulations are lax, and by having poor overall security.

Gottlieb said that the appellate court “ruling should send a message to anti-gun extremist groups like the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence about bankrolling frivolous junk lawsuits. Abusing the legal system to harass gun makers may grab a few cheap headlines, but what does it really accomplish?”

The Brady Campaign pursued and funded the New York City case against the firearms industry. Brady attorney Dennis Henigan said the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act “unfairly” gives the gun industry protections not given to any other business.

Gottlieb said, “Legal theatrics that deflect attention from the failure of Bloomberg’s administration to prevent crime are all flash and no substance, and the people know it. Judging from the appeals court ruling, so do the courts.”

CCRKBA BLASTS LAUTENBERG BACK DOOR GUN CONTROL BILL

"For decades now, gun grabbers have been trying to institute and institutionalize universal firearms registration. We in the gun rights movement have been resisting them every step of the way," said John M. Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, in Washington, D.C.

"So far," he continued, "we have been more or less successful in our resistance, but the anti-gunners never give up. They seek whatever avenue they can to bring about the creation of a national gun registry."

Snyder noted that, "four years ago, for instance, we succeeded in promoting a public policy which requires the FBI to destroy firearm transaction records of approved purchases within 24 hours. Our reasoning was forthright and simple. Why should the government maintain records of

gun purchases when the NICS check demonstrates that there is no legal reason for preventing a prospective firearms purchaser from in fact making the purchase? We also argued that the maintenance of such records by a government bureaucracy for no apparent good reason could lead to a step by step institution of a national gun registry, a back door national firearms registration system.

"The gun grabbers are back with the same plan, in the guise of a so-called PROTECT Act of 2008 introduced by anti-gun Sen. Frank R. Lautenberg of New Jersey and a coterie of original cosponsors. The bill, S. 2935, would allow the FBI to keep background check information on approved gun buyers for 180 days. These 180 days might just as well be forever since once the information is put into a

computerized system it can be delivered to an indefinite number of computers and be available for an indefinite period of time. This obviously is an attempt to undermine law-abiding Americans' gun rights. We intend to oppose it and ask CCRKBA Members to contact both of their U.S. Senators and ask them to oppose it."

Currently, the Brady Law, as amended, requires federally licensed firearm dealers to conduct background checks on gun buyers within three business days, using the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). Once the gun sale is approved, the FBI must destroy the records generated by NICS within 24 hours, as required by a rider attached to appropriations bills each year since 2004.

CITIZEN ACTION PROJECT

CCRKBA urges American gun owners, especially those licensed to carry concealed handguns, to comment on a proposed Interior Department rules change that would allow concealed carry in national parks and national wildlife refuges. CCRKBA supports the rule change.

Citizens do not leave their right of self-defense at the gates of a national park or the boundary of a wildlife refuge. Millions of Americans legally carry concealed for personal protection. Contrary to the rhetoric of gun grabbers, parks and refuges are not immune to crime. According to National Park Service data, between 2002 and 2007, there were 63 homicides in national parks, 240 rapes or attempted rapes, 309 robberies, 37 kidnappings and 1,277 aggravated assaults. Opponents of this rule change dismiss those numbers as insignificant, but the crimes are very significant to the victims.

To comment on line, simply visit www.regulations.gov and follow the instructions for making public comment. *Point Blank* readers can also mail comments to: Public Comments Processing, Attn: 1024-AD70; Division of Policy and Directives Management; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 222; Arlington VA 22203.

Opponents of this sensible rule change already are spreading hysteria with claims that it will lead to poaching and reckless target shooting, and make parks dangerous. That is simply not true. It is the same extremist nonsense that anti-gunners preach when they oppose state right to carry laws. None of their wild predictions have come true. Studies indicate that concealed carry actually reduces violent crime.

Changing the rules to recognize the progressive changes in state laws over the past 25 years is both reasonable and responsible. Legally armed citizens have just as much right to enjoy national parks as anyone.

RONNIE BARRETT THE CCRKBA GUN DEFENDER

Ronnie Barrett of Murfreesboro, Tennessee is the CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month for June.

In nominating Barrett for the Award, CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb pointed out that, as part of a "divide and conquer" strategy on the part of anti-gunners, the gun grabbers are trying to isolate one group of gun owners from others. The gun grabbers are trying to isolate firearms enthusiasts who are particularly interested in and committed to the use of .50 caliber rifles for legitimate purposes. Ronnie Barrett has become a leader in exposing the fallacies of gun grabbers in this regard and in fighting them with the truth. "Consequently," added Gottlieb, "Ronnie is most deserving of this Award."

Barrett founded Barrett Firearms Manufacturing in 1982. Well known for .50 caliber rifles, Barrett produces rifles in .416 Barrett and 6.8 SPC calibers. Barrett also is a growing innovator in the design and production of optics for long range shooters. Barrett's bold idea of a shoulder fired .50 caliber rifle led to the now celebrated Model 82 rifle.

With Barrett, the .50 caliber issue came to a head recently when the Chief of Police in Honolulu, Hawaii, Boisse Correa, called for and used his office to promote an Aloha State ban on .50 caliber rifles.

"If Hawaii or any state bans the sale of the .50 caliber rifle," stated Barrett in response, "we will immediately stop the sale and service of all Barrett products to that state's government agencies. We will also

welcome all small arms manufacturers to take the same action."

"It is the law," continued Barrett. "Barrett Firearms Manufacturing cannot sell our products to those who break the law even though the officials responsible may not yet be indicted. Barrett will not support a state or local government that is obviously in violation of the United States Constitution thereby jeopardizing the safety and security of its citizens."

Barrett wrote Correa that, "The act of a government entity banning commercial sales of legal firearms, such as my .50 caliber rifle, not only violates the basic principles of the Constitution, but also puts national security at risk by ending the delicate balance between the government and the private sector. Furthermore, it sets a precedent that endangers the future of other vital defense contractors.

"How important is this particular rifle? In 2004, the United States Army named the Barrett M107 Rifle as one of the 10 Greatest Inventions for helping our brave service men and women do their jobs. The free enterprise system allowed me, a civilian sportsman and manufacturer, to perfect that rifle and get it into the hands of those who defend freedom."

Barrett let Correa know that he realized Correa has been receiving "exaggerated and untrue information that is originating from the Violence Policy Center. For many years, the VPC has claimed an urgent need to ban powerful rifles by predicting some attack will soon happen that will result in preposterous destruction. Well, as much as they promote the attack idea, they don't happen, as this is not

the type of weapon our enemies are using against us.

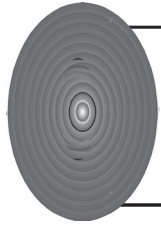
"VPC's call for urgent action is in hopes that no time will be spent in factual research that easily reveals the irrationality of these exaggerated claims. All of these tactics have failed to work in Washington, D.C. Now, the VPC's plan is to continue this deception at the state level."

Barrett stated to Correa that "I was in law enforcement myself for several years. There is something that bothers me, and I believe it should bother you as a police official. Sir, your general testimony and statements must be based on factual evidence. All police work in this great nation must be firmly grounded in facts, collected evidence, and the solid truth.

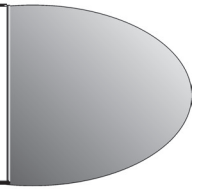
"Throughout history, when police work was contaminated with innuendoes, fabrications and fear tactics, the society was doomed. Now, I must ask you how many murders can you report that were committed in your jurisdiction with a .50 caliber rifle? How many robberies? How many .50 caliber rifles have you found at crime scenes? The answers should be true facts; anything else is a destroyer of our society, our great republic."

Barrett has been battling the anti-gun .50 caliber rifle scam for some time.

After California banned .50 caliber firearms, he wrote that, "Unlike California, we cannot allow any of our local, state or federal officials to be deceived with any of this 'big lie' gun control propaganda. The U.S. has every gun law that could possibly be needed."



QUICK SHOTS



The principal of a North Carolina high school and an area school superintendent who supported his decision to prohibit the school's marksmanship team from participating in a state-sponsored shooting tournament should be fired, CCRKBA said last month. East Wake Principal Sebastian Shipp and Area Superintendent Danny Barnes the previous month barred the school shooting team from the tournament conducted by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, based on a school district policy that bans firearms and other dangerous weapons from school campuses. Both officials reportedly interpreted that ban to extend to participation in the off-campus, non-school hours tournament. CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb said, "This is an outrageous position."



Authorities in Kelseyville, California say a dentist was defending himself when he shot and wounded his estranged wife who had attacked him with a pickax, reports the Associated Press. The Lake County Sheriff's Department said dentist Don Johnson shot his wife, Margaret Johnson, once in the neck after she broke into their home with a pickax. She was taken to Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital and listed in stable, but critical condition. The couple was not living together and Margaret Johnson had been served with a restraining order the day of the shooting. Don Johnson said his wife broke through a window after he had gone to bed one Friday and

that she entered the house armed with a pickax. Authorities said Don Johnson fired one shot, and then called the sheriff's department. Charges against Margaret Johnson were pending further investigation as of this writing.



A would-be robber at an Inglewood, Tennessee liquor store was shot and killed in late April after a customer opened fire, Metro police said, according to the *Tennessean*. Two men entered Sinkers Wine & Spirits around 10 p.m. on a Saturday and attempted to rob the store with handguns, Captain David Imhof said. During the robbery, a customer took out a handgun of his own and began a shootout. One of the robbery suspects ran away, but the other collapsed outside the store. He was pronounced dead at a medical facility. The customer who fired on the robbery suspects has a permit to carry a weapon and has not been charged. "A citizen, like a police officer, has the right to utilize deadly force if there is a threat of serious bodily injury of harm," Imhof said.



Security personnel at Juniata College soon will be carrying weapons. Trustees at the small central Pennsylvania school voted to arm campus police officers. Juniata College President Thomas Kepple said the college joined other schools in looking at security policies following the Virginia Tech shooting a year ago.

The school hasn't decided yet what kind of weapon the officers will carry. A campus spokesman said officers have to get state certification, and that they likely will not be armed until the fall. Juniata has about 1,400 students and seven full-time officers.



Marion P. Hammer, Executive Director of United Sportsmen of Florida and a former CCRKBA honoree, writes *Sunshine State* gun owners that, "In the fight for your firearms freedom, the Florida Chamber of Commerce and the Florida Retail Federation were determined to kill the bill that protects your right to keep a firearm in your vehicle for personal protection. They even threatened the Legislature and the Governor with a lawsuit. The Legislature was not intimidated – they passed the bill. Governor Charlie Crist was not intimidated – he signed it into law. They stood up for your self-defense rights against the big business bullies who were trying to eliminate them. Six days after Governor Crist signed the bill into law, the Florida Chamber of Commerce and the Florida Retail Federation rushed into federal court and filed a frivolous lawsuit to try to have the new law overturned. They had already bragged to the media that they would spend huge amounts of money to fight to negate your constitutional rights. They are relying on Disney, Publix, Walmart and other anti-gun corporate giants to fund their assault of the Legislature, Governor Crist and on our right to carry."

4

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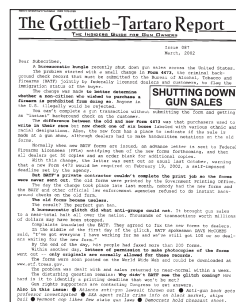
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At last, an academic journal dedicated to scholarly discussion of firearms and public policy! The JOURNAL OF FIREARMS AND PUBLIC POLICY has published annually since 1989. Its mission: to encourage objective research on the right to keep and bear arms, and explore America's Constitutional heritage to privately own and possess firearms. Edited by David B. Kopel – Research Director at the Independence Institute and renowned gun-rights scholar – and contributors include Randy E. Barnett, Glenn Harlan Reynolds, John R. Lott, Joseph P. Tartaro, Gary Kleck, and others.

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