

POINT BLANK

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



**July
2013**

Volume XXXVIII No. 7

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**CITIZENS
COMMITTEE
FOR THE RIGHT
TO KEEP AND
BEAR ARMS**

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CCRKBA BACKS WA EFFORT TO STOP GUN GRABS

The Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms has taken on one of its more ambitious projects, an effort with the Washington Arms Collectors (WAC) and other gun rights activists, backing an initiative to the State Legislature that would prevent government gun confiscations without due process, and also require that background checks comply with the uniform national standard.

The Initiative 591 effort is a counter-measure to a 15-page initiative, also to the legislature, being pushed by a Seattle-based gun control group calling itself the Washington Alliance for Gun Responsibility (WAGR).

CCRKBA has pledged \$200,000 to the effort, which requires more than 250,000 signatures to be validated. Signature gathering started in June and will continue through summer and fall.

CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb is committed to the effort to give Washington citizens an alternative to what he calls an inappropriate and complicated measure being pushed by a handful of well-financed gun control proponents. WAGR is being funded largely by a wealthy Seattle-based venture capitalist, but there are also indications that anti-gun New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg might throw some money into the campaign.

The initiative battle has been described as a "David v. Goliath" confrontation, pitting the rich against Washington gun owners who are using volunteers and small contributions to fight a war chest reported to hold over \$1 million.

It is estimated that the signature gathering effort to put the Protect Our Gun Rights (POGR) initiative in front of the legislature will cost between \$500,000 and \$1 million. Contributions and requests for petitions may be sent to POGR at 12500 N.E. 10th PL, Bellevue, WA 98005, or call (425) 454-4911.

I-591 is an exercise in simplicity, with two main tenets.

- "It is unlawful for any government agency to confiscate guns or other firearms from citizens without due process."
- "It is unlawful for any government agency to require background checks on the recipient of a firearm unless a uniform national standard is required."

Washington currently does background checks in accordance with federal regulations, while the gun control crowd's measure would add state-level restrictions and also enters the realm of taxation.

Stopping gun confiscations is an important issue for Gottlieb, who fought the illegal gun grab in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

BALTIMORE: 'HOW'S THAT NEW GUN CONTROL THING WORKING?'

Weeks after Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley signed one of the strictest gun control laws in the nation, a bloodbath continues in Baltimore where June ended with dozens of shootings, prompting the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms to ask gun control proponents what they really accomplished.

"Maryland lawmakers passed fingerprinting and licensing to prevent criminals from getting guns and thus reduce gun violence," noted CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb. "Evidently, criminals didn't get the message."

The new law does not take effect until Oct. 1, but all the talk and high-profile politicking was supposed to have sent a message to Marylanders that it is time to ratchet down on the violence. Baltimore clergy are also speaking out, calling on citizens to stop the violence.

"Criminals who ignore the current law will continue to ignore the new law as they have done elsewhere," he predicted. "The new law was passed with good intentions, but surely the Baltimore clergy and their colleagues around the state know where the road paved with good intentions leads.

"Over the past few weeks," he continued, "we have seen Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence taking credit for pushing through the new law. Does that mean when it doesn't work, they will acknowledge their error and help to undo the damage they have done to the rights of law-abiding citizens?"

Does it mean that lawmakers who passed the legislation and Gov. O'Malley will accept responsibility if the blood-letting continues, or will they try to blame gun owners and gun rights organizations for their

own failure?

"Baltimore has racked up more than 115 homicides so far this year," Gottlieb noted. "The city is, no pun intended, a bloody mess, and tough new gun laws will not change that, because they penalize and inconvenience the wrong people.

"Putting the brakes on bad behavior should not involve treating good people like criminals," he concluded. "Just like Chicago, the gun control lobby in Maryland is reaping what it has sown."

GUN RIGHTS CONFERENCE IN HOUSTON

It's not too early to start planning for this year's Gun Rights Policy Conference, scheduled Sept. 27-29 at the Marriott Hotel Houston Airport.

Cosponsored by the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms and the Second Amendment Foundation, this annual event brings together many of the leading gun rights advocates in the country.

The preliminary agenda for this year's event includes panel discussions about proposed bans on semiautomatic sporting rifles and their magazines, "smart gun" technology, federal and state legislative threats, policies established by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, concealed carry, gun show regulation, international and UN activities and recent Second Amendment-related court cases.

Confirmed speakers include landmark Supreme Court *Heller* and *McDonald* attorney, Alan Gura, John Lott, best selling author and scholar and *Washington Times* senior editor of opinion and author of the upcoming book, "Emily Gets Her Gun".

Please see the back page of *Point Blank* or visit ccrkba.org for more information and to sign up.



POINT BLANK

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

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CCRKBA APPLAUDS U.S HOUSE FOR BLOCKING U.N. FUNDS

The Citizens' Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms is grateful for the leadership of Rep. Mike Kelly (R-PA). He introduced amendment to the National Defense Authorization Bill, HR 1960. It states, "None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2014 or any fiscal year thereafter for the Department of Defense may be obligated or expended to implement the Arms Trade Treaty, or to make any change to existing programs, projects, or activities as approved by Congress in furtherance of, pursuant or, or otherwise to implement the Arms Trade Treaty, unless the Arms Trade Treaty has been signed by the President, received the advice and consent of the Senate, and has been the subject of implementing legislation by the Congress."

It was adopted unanimously by voice vote on June 14, 2013.

When Rep. Kelly introduced his amendment he remarked, "First, the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty undermines our Second Amendment rights by omitting the fundamental, individual right to keep and bear arms and imposing a national 'responsibility' to prevent firearms 'diversion,' thus opening the door to new gun control measures."

He continued, "Secondly, the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty undermines our sovereignty by imposing vague, readily politicized requirements on the United States and inviting United Nations-led investigations into what U.S. policy makers knew or should have known regarding arms transfers that allegedly violate the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty.

"Ultimately, the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty will stop the good from doing good without stopping the bad from doing bad. As then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said, the U.S. maintains the 'gold standard' of arms export controls. My amendment upholds our current policies as well as our enduring values," Kelly concluded.

CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb, long a supporter of measures that restrict funding for programs that might help the United Nations enact measures detrimental to the Second Amendment, was matter-of-fact.

"Gun prohibitionists know the treaty hasn't even been signed yet by the United States," he noted. "They also know it has slim chance of being ratified by the Senate, but here they are, already trying to grab taxpayer dollars to essentially enforce conditions of a treaty we're not going to adopt."

Gottlieb also noted that with a number of groups urging opposition to the amendment, it becomes all the more important gun owners register their support for the measure with their congressional representatives.

"Global gun control fanatics want this country to help pay for a program created by a treaty our Senate won't ratify," he observed. "Our national defense dollars will be much better spent on arms and equipment for our military, rather than on some Pollyanna scheme to push international firearms restrictions that could ultimately threaten Second Amendment sovereignty.

"The time has come for American taxpayers to stop financing international feel-good programs that do nothing for our national security," Gottlieb said. "We can no longer afford to bankroll the UN's Utopian fantasy projects."

POWERFUL VIDEO DETAILS 'REAL WAR ON WOMEN'

The Citizens' Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms, in cooperation with its sister organization, the Second Amendment Foundation, recently released a new video online which calls attention to what both groups say is the "real war on women": keeping them from protecting themselves and their children against violent criminals using firearms.

The video, which is available on YouTube at this link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4IyuYL0SWQL>.

The video depicts a woman is at home with her grandchildren when

the home is invaded. She rushes the children into a closet and dials 911 only to be informed by the police dispatcher that "units have been dispatched." A message then appears on the screen telling viewers that the average response time from police is 11 minutes.

A second message then appears, noting that the real war on women is gun control, and then a female voice tells viewers, "Protect yourself and your children. It's your constitutional and God-given right."

CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb indicated the new video would be getting maximum exposure.

'NO MORE NAMES' BUS TOUR CHASTISED BY CCRKBA

Anti-gun New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg was embarrassed by comments made during the first stop of his much-ballyhooed "No More Names" anti-gun bus tour.

A disturbance erupted when a volunteer with Bloomberg's Mayors Against Illegal Guns (MAIG) read a list of names of purported "gun crime victims" that included the names of criminals killed by police and private citizens, including the name of one of the Boston Marathon bombing suspects, Tamerlan Tsarnaev.

MAIG subsequently issued a public apology for including those names.

According to *The Manchester Union-Leader*, people in the audience began shouting, "He's a terrorist."

That Tsarnaev's name was even

mentioned angered Alan Gottlieb, chairman of the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms.

Gottlieb said that including Tsarnaev's name as a "gun crime victim" was proof positive that Bloomberg's gun prohibition effort "will exploit even the names of dead terror suspects to further his anti-gun agenda. That's a new low that I didn't think was possible."

"If Bloomberg and MAIG are willing to make a martyr of a terror suspect to push their agenda," Gottlieb observed, "it raises questions about the legitimacy of their campaign to disarm America, one legislative step at a time.

"Bloomberg is spending millions of dollars to push his vision of America onto the backs of every other citizen,"

Gottlieb stated. "Now it's clear the gun prohibition lobby, with Bloomberg in the lead, has no conscience and no shame. And these people want to dictate morality to us?" he said.

MAIG told the Atlantic Wire website that it had obtained Tsarnaev's name from a list posted on another website. The man responsible for that website stated he added Tsarnaev's name, and the names of criminals, because they were all killed by gunfire.

Elsewhere around the country that the bus tour stopped, crowd turnout was typically light and actually attracted several gun rights protesters. Sometimes, the pro-gunners outnumbered those from the gun prohibition lobby.

CITIZEN ACTION PROJECT

The July Citizen Action Project is essentially a restatement of the June one. Word from the White House is that President Obama will likely sign the UN Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) sometime this summer, probably during the August Congressional recess or in early September.

As of mid-June, 73 UN member nations had signed the treaty.

Signing the treaty is only one step -- the first step -- in the process. Before the treaty becomes law, it must be ratified -- confirmed -- by 2/3 of the 100 members of the U.S. Senate. In March of this year, 53 Senators voted for an amendment rejecting any aspect of the treaty that diminished the rights of Americans to keep and bear arms. But that was not a ratification vote. Many of the 53 Senators voting at that time to protect your Second Amendment rights could change their vote when the treaty is brought up for the real ratification vote.

The UN Arms Trade Treaty is potentially the greatest threat to the Second Amendment, and to U.S. gun owners, that we have faced in our history. A great deal of language in the treaty is left open to interpretation, to include those internal measures necessary to enforce treaty provisions. Application and enforcement by a hostile administration could be a disaster not only for gun owners, but for the Constitution itself.

Now is the time to contact your U.S. Senators by letter, e-mail or telephone and politely but firmly demand they vote "NO" on any treaty restricting the fundamental Constitutional rights of any American citizen.

Contact information for your Senators may be found at www.senate.gov or at www.ccrkba.org using the link at "Contact your Senator" in the left margin.

BLOOMBERG'S USE OF CITY SERVERS NEEDS INVESTIGATION

The Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms today is calling on New York Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman to investigate whether any laws have been violated by New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg for apparently operating a website for Mayors Against Illegal Guns that is reportedly registered to a New York City government server, and apparently administered by city employees.

"On top of everything else that has been revealed in recent days about Bloomberg's MAIG group padding lists of so-called 'gun victims' with the names of criminals and a terrorist bombing suspect, this new discovery is an outrage that demands a criminal

investigation," said CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb.

"He's spending millions of his own dollars on anti-gun politicking around the country, but apparently to offset his expenses, he's letting taxpayers – many of whom oppose his restrictive gun policies – help foot the bill."

CBS News picked up the story from various other sources and began reporting about it over the weekend. Politico also has reported on the discovery.

"With each day there appears to be something else questionable about the mayor and his anti-gun organization," Gottlieb observed. "It's no wonder that Rockford, Illinois Mayor Larry Morrissey dropped out of the MAIG over the weekend."

Gottlieb was referring to a story that Politico reported about Mayor Morrissey. The Illinois mayor quit Bloomberg's group, telling an audience at a Saturday meeting that – according to Politico – the group "strayed from its original mission and became too focused" on pushing for ban on so-called "assault weapons."

"While it was deceptive to include the names of criminals killed by police and law-abiding citizens on a list of alleged 'gun victims'," Gottlieb said, "that's just being politically dishonest. But operating an anti-gun political website on the city server, apparently with city employees doing the work; if that's true, that may be a crime and it should be investigated."

CCRKBA LAUDS REPEAL OF ONEROUS KNIFE RESTRICTIONS

There was a major legislative victory for knife rights in the Texas, and the Citizens' Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms was pleased with the news.

On June 17, Texas Governor Rick Perry signed a bill that repealed the ban on so-called "switchblade" knives in the state. The bill's passage came about largely due to efforts of the group Knife Rights, an organization CCRKBA has supported since its inception.

CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb praised the bill's signing.

"While other knife restrictions in Texas remain in effect," Gottlieb

observed, "this looks like a good first step toward more rational laws regulating knives, which must be protected under the Second Amendment, same as firearms. The right to keep and bear arms is not limited simply to guns."

The bill was passed almost unanimously by both houses of the state's Legislature in Austin, with only one House of Representatives member voting no. With the governor's signature on the bill, the repeal will take effect on September 1, 2013.

The bill's passage makes Texas the fifth state to adopt pro-knife bills this

year, and Knife Rights is not done yet in the Lone Star State. Two years from now, the organization promised to work on legislation enacting state preemption on knife laws, similar to state preemption on gun laws seen in many states.

Gottlieb praised supporters of the knife legislation.

"Our hats are off to Knife Rights and in particular the people they recognize as having been instrumental in getting this accomplished," Gottlieb said. "Kudos go to Rep. Harold Dutton and Sen. Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa, and Knife Rights volunteer W. Scott Lewis."

ILLINOIS MAYOR SHOWS BACKBONE

When it comes to making a point, it might be hard to find anyone who could do it with quite the splash exhibited in June by Lawrence J. "Larry" Morrissey, the mayor of Rockford, Ill.

This native-born son, first elected to office in 2005, just won re-election in April to a third term, and at a public event announced that he would be applying for a concealed carry permit when the Legislature finally adopts a carry law.

As if that wasn't enough of a bombshell, the politically independent Morrissey revealed that he had quit the Mayors Against Illegal Guns, the gun control group disguised as a mayors' organization that was founded by anti-gun New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg. That got headlines, not for the fact that he resigned from the group, but for what he said in the process.

According to the *Rockford Register Star*, the hometown newspaper that endorsed his re-election and has



Mayor Larry Morrissey

covered his political career, Morrissey told an audience, "The reason why I joined the group in the first place was because I took the name for what it said, against illegal guns."

He told the crowd that he hadn't anticipated the Bloomberg group's focus would turn to banning so-called "assault weapons" or original capacity magazines for those and other firearms.

"As the original mission swayed," the newspaper quoted him as stating, "that's when I decided it was no longer in line with my beliefs."

Morrissey is not the first mayor to leave the MAIG collective. But he certainly did it with style.

Mayor Morrissey's announcement came coincidentally with a string of revelations for the Bloomberg group that left CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb calling on New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman to launch an investigation. One of the disclosures was that MAIG's website was owned by the New York City official government server. Translation: City employees were apparently administering the site, on public time at public expense.

This came only a few days after it was revealed that the MAIG "No More Names" anti-gun-rights bus tour was including the names of murder suspects and Boston Marathon bombing suspect Tamerlan Tsarnaev on their list of "gun violence victims."

According to the *Rockford Register Star*, Morrissey is the recipient of death threats. That may not be unusual for a politician, but his approach to the dilemma is not to make a big media splash about banning guns, but to announce that as soon as he is legally able, he's going to be carrying a gun. How many other chief executives of large cities in Illinois or elsewhere have made that announcement?

"Any doubt that I might have had in my opinions about concealed carry when I first came into office changed quickly as I became an elected official and became very familiar with the types of crimes we're dealing with," Morrissey told an audience of about 200 people. "The focus should not be against law-abiding citizens."

It takes a certain amount of backbone for a public official to essentially tell the world that he is going to be armed at the same time he's poking one of the wealthiest anti-gunners in the country that he's finished with the Bloomberg organization.

But Mayor Morrissey appears to have a solid handle on the problem. The majority of gun-related crime in his community, as it is elsewhere, is committed by people who cannot legally own or possess firearms in the first place. The answer to that, he explained, is not cracking down on law-abiding citizens.

ILLINOIS UPDATE

As *Point Blank* goes to press, Illinois is in process of becoming the 50th state to allow concealed carry.

The Illinois Legislature is scheduled for a special session on July 9 to deal with Gov. Quinn's amendatory veto of the bill that they had passed.

CCRKBA's sister organization, the Second Amendment Foundation, brought the case, *Moore v. Madigan*, that forced this legislation. We will be vigilantly watching the developments.



QUICK SHOTS

The *Austin American-Statesman* reported the findings were released to the Austin city council June 4 by the city's police department, and it showed that only about a quarter of all major crimes – these including murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault and disorderly conduct – between 2010 and last year involved the use of a firearm.

The newspaper added though that a memo that was used by the police department to inform councilors of the new data noted that there was no definitive means to accurately assess the actual amount of firearm-related violent crime in their city.



While state lawmakers in Colorado passed strict anti-gun laws recently, one local municipality is going in the opposite direction.

KWGN-TV in Denver reported that the city council in the Denver suburb of Glendale voted at their council meeting June 4 to repeal a city ordinance which prohibited the sale or transfer of semi-automatic "assault" weapons. According to the TV station, the repeal of the law means that residents are now free to purchase such firearms within city borders.



After the June 7 shooting spree in Santa Monica, CA, where a man opened fire in several locations and killed five people, one could have expected the usual calls for limits

on gun rights.

But one Los Angeles college educator has a different view. CBSLA.com reported that UCLA law professor Adam Winkler suggested that new gun laws may not have stopped the suspect.

"I don't think there's any gun control law we can adopt that's gonna stop a crazed madman from killing a lot of people," said Winkler. "One of the problems with the state-based firearms laws...is that people can easily go into Nevada and Arizona and buy firearms there and bring them back. They're not supposed to be allowed to do that."



The Arizona Republic reported June 12 that councilmembers in Gilbert, outside of Phoenix, are examining whether they should allow gun owners to carry their firearms onto city property. Current law, according to the paper, does not allow it.

City officials told the paper the current rules are based on an "honor system" because people who visit to conduct city business are not asked to check their guns before entering. The rule changes, according to the *Republic*, are looking to align city law with state law.



The Macon Telegraph reported the city council in Byron passed the new rules in their regular meeting June 11. The new law, according to the paper, prohibits discharge of a gun unless it is being used in lawful

self-defense, by law enforcement or military on duty, at a licensed shooting range, or with the consent of the city's mayor.

The Telegraph also reported the new rules also restrict when BB or pellet guns can be used in the city.



The Las Vegas Review-Journal reported June 13 that Gov. Brian Sandoval rejected the bill, SB 221, that would have expanded background checks on firearms sales in the Silver State.

Following its legislative passage, the question of whether the governor would sign the bill into law became a hot topic for debate; according to the paper, his office in the state capitol of Carson City had been flooded with some 100,000 telephone calls from people regarding the measure.



A Wisconsin legislator has proposed a bill that would stop the enforcement of federal gun laws in the state.

The Associated Press reported state Rep. Michael Schraa of Oshkosh proposed the bill. According to the AP, the legislation would bar state or local police from enforcing federal gun control regulations passed after the first of this year.

There are other provisions attached to the bill, the AP reported, including one that prohibits doctors from asking patients about whether they own firearms.



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2013 Gun Rights Policy Conference

EQUAL GUN RIGHTS

**Sponsored by the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms
and the Second Amendment Foundation**

Come meet national gun rights leaders and your fellow grassroots activists at the 28th Annual Gun Rights Policy Conference (GRPC 2013) in Houston, Texas. This is your once a year chance to network, get an insider's look and plan pro-gun rights strategies for the coming year.

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

This year we'll take a look at critical issues such as: bans on semi-auto guns and magazines, ammunition restrictions, concealed and open carry, federal legislation, BATFE policies, gun show regulation, state and local activity, United Nations' threats and the most recent Right to Keep and Bear Arms court cases.

The full roster of GRPC 2013 speakers has not been set. Past speakers include Alan Gottlieb, Joseph Tartaro, Eugene Volokh, Wayne LaPierre, Michael Reagan, Larry Elder, Bob Barr, John Fund, John Lott, Dave Kopel, Sandy Froman, Massad Ayoob, Tom Gresham, Alan Gura, G. Gordon Liddy, Larry Pratt, Alan Korwin, Emily Miller and many others. Check our websites – www.ccrkba.org or www.saf.org for updates.

CONFERENCE and HUNDREDS OF DOLLARS WORTH OF MATERIALS ARE FREE!

Books, monographs and other materials—enough to start a Second Amendment library are free, as are Saturday luncheon, and Friday and Saturday evening receptions. Other meals, travel and lodging are to be paid by attendee. Hotel rooms can be reserved at the Marriott Hotel at the Intercontinental Airport at a special rate of \$104 by calling 1-800-627-7468 and mentioning GRPC. Conference registration and other details will be confirmed by email.

2013 Gun Rights Policy Conference / FREE

Yes, I want to attend. I understand that registration, conference materials and luncheon will be provided courtesy of CCRKBA and SAF. All other meals, lodging and airfare are to be paid by attendee.

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