



Written by [Patrick Krey](#) on December 18, 2017

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Exercising the Right

Banning Gun Stores?

The owners of the Southern California retail chain Turner's Outdoorsman were excited about a new location opening in San Carlos City, California. The owners of the store, whose website describes it as "California's #1 Hunting, Shooting & Fishing Headquarters since 1971," had done all the required legal work to comply with local zoning laws and were on track to have their grand opening in November. The owners even signed a 10-year lease and spent \$120,000 on the new store. Then the unthinkable happened. Local liberal activists started a campaign against the store, decrying the opening of the store and urging local voters to contact city officials and implore them to do anything in their power to stop it.

Since San Carlos City is a liberal city where registered Democrats outnumber registered Republicans two to one, the campaign went viral, and constituents bombarded local officials with complaints about the opening of the store.

The campaign was masterminded by Episcopal Reverend Alan Gates, who told Fox KTVU that "following the shooting in Las Vegas I just decided I didn't want any more guns in San Carlos, I certainly didn't want to see another gun store in San Carlos."

Gates and the local chapter of the Brady Campaign manufactured such an outcry that the city council called an emergency session to address the issue.

The owners of Turner's Outdoorsman were dealt a devastating blow on November 15 when the San Carlos City Council voted four to one to delay the opening of the new gun store by passing a 45-day moratorium on establishments that sell ammunition or firearms.

The only dissenting vote belonged to Vice Mayor Matt Grocott. Grocott complained that the moratorium on the opening of the Turner's Outdoorsman store was unfair to the owners, who had already complied with all the local requirements to open their business and spent a fair amount of money on it as well. Grocott also expressed concern that the seemingly arbitrary action might bring a lawsuit either from Turner's or the National Rifle Association (NRA).

The rest of the city council made statements to the media that revealed their ignorance on the issue. Councilman Mark Olbert said he voted "hell yes" for the moratorium because "since guns are the only commodity mentioned in the Bill of Rights, government is allowed to regulate guns."

One of Olbert's political advisors might want to have him check that reading of the Constitution with an attorney familiar with constitutional law.

Olbert also explained that his actions were motivated by the desire to please his constituents. Olbert told reporters that he had received more correspondence on the issue from local citizens than he had on anything else he voted on in his previous 16 years as a public servant.

Not to be outdone in displays of ignorance, the citizens of San Carlos also made their voices heard on the issue. On the night of the vote, there was a large turnout from citizens who wanted to speak on the gun store. Like so many advocates of gun control, the people most opposed to guns based their opinions on emotions and an ignorant understanding of firearms. Lorrie Low read a letter written by her five-



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year-old son in which he stated there “is no point in guns.”

Others expressed anger that Turner’s Outdoorsman advocates for Second Amendment causes on its website. Leslie Doohan crowed that the store is “actively working to reverse gun safety laws, (and make it) easier to secure semi-automatic firearms.”

Bill Ortiz, vice president of compliance at Turner’s Outdoorsman, tried to talk sense into the crowd and assured them that there was no public safety risk in the store’s opening. Ortiz explained that their line of stores has been in the heavily regulated and scrutinized industry of firearm sales for decades and that they work closely with local law enforcement, as well as the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) to prevent people from buying guns who are legally prohibited from doing so. Sadly, Ortiz’s efforts would be for naught as democracy won the day, and the howling mob of anti-gunners got their wishes.

The news just got worse for Turner’s Outdoorsman: They were told that it’s likely the city council would pass a new ordinance extending the moratorium to 10 and a half months! The councilmen who voted for the moratorium also implied that they would think up new laws that would prohibit a second gun store in the city.

This story is far from over, though, as onlookers expect there will be legal actions taken by either Turner’s Outdoorsman, the NRA, or the California Rifle & Pistol Association.

Home Repair Man

The *Democrat and Chronicle* out of Rochester, New York, reported on November 11 about a man whose life may have been saved by him being able to carry a gun. A repairman was working on a home in the city of Rochester around 10:15 p.m. when an armed suspect ran up to him and demanded his money. The repairman was able to pull out his own gun and shoot at the suspect, and the two men exchanged gunfire. The repairman was the better shot and shot the suspect in the lower body. The injured suspect ran from the scene but was later dropped off at Rochester General Hospital by a friend. Police responded to the reports of a man suffering a gunshot wound and quickly identified the suspect as the man who tried robbing the repairman. The suspect is being treated for a non-life-threatening injury, and charges are pending.

Officer at the Scene

KUSA reported on November 13 about an off-duty Denver police officer who ended a suspect’s life of crime. The officer was asleep at home when he heard the sounds of an intruder forcing his way into the house. The officer grabbed his pistol and confronted the burglar, and then shot him in the chest. Authorities were called to the scene and took the injured suspect, 53-year-old Kerry Dean Hughes, to a nearby medical facility, where he later died. Hughes had a lengthy criminal record that included a prior conviction for burglary and charges of drug possession, identity theft, and other cases dating back almost two decades. n

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