



Written by [Patrick Krey](#) on June 18, 2018

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Exercising the Right

Gun Owners Stand Up to Anti-gun Banks

The New American recently reported on how major banks are working behind the scenes to implement gun control through banking rules, rules that the anti-gun lobby hasn't been able to get passed through the legislature. While that story certainly was disheartening to supporters of the Second Amendment, the good news is that gun owners are not taking this lying down. *U.S. News & World Report* reported on May 18 about how both Citigroup Inc. and Bank of America publicly declared their intentions to stop offering financial services to gunmakers if the gunmakers don't comply with certain anti-gun demands, such as to stop selling guns such as the AR-15.

These moves by banks to force changes on the gun industry, which have stalled through political means, were actually cheered on by anti-gun politicians who normally talk about how much they cherish democracy and the legislative process. "We applaud this model of corporate responsibility and we hope that this is the path forward for similar financial entities," wrote Senator Dianne Feinstein and 12 other anti-gun politicians in an open letter to the financial industry. The short-sightedness of the banks was soon revealed as it quickly became apparent that the Republican support they were counting on for some desired regulatory changes in the financial industry might be in jeopardy.

Reuters reported on May 18 that both Gun Owners of America (GOA) and the National Rifle Association (NRA) were both pushing back against the big banks. Banking lobbyists have long been pushing to get modifications of the 2010 Dodd Frank act that could prove to be quite lucrative for big banks such as Citigroup and Bank of America. But not so fast! GOA recently began lobbying legislators to modify the proposed deregulation with a statutory provision that would prohibit banks from discriminating against firearms makers. "Citigroup and Bank of America are threatening our Second-Amendment rights. They do not realize how much more there is to lose than to gain," GOA's executive director, Erich Pratt, was quoted as saying by Reuters.

In the end, the bill did pass on May 24 without the wording proposed by GOA, but the potential for a long-term battle between the gun lobbies and the big banks seems to be on the horizon. Charles Adcox, a GOA member who owns a gun shop in Missouri, now refuses to accept Citi and Bank of America credit cards. Adcox said that the change was not an issue for his customers and added that the feedback he's received seems to indicate that his customers plan to stop using those banks in their own lives, as well. "My more loyal customers don't mind paying in cash. Some even wish to drop their credit-card companies for gun-friendly alternatives," Adcox told Reuters.

The NRA is also getting in on the fight and has begun running ads online that are critical of Citigroup and Bank of America. "The NRA will continue to promote awareness of those companies who seek to infringe upon the Second Amendment rights of American citizens," William Brewer, an NRA attorney, wrote in a publicly released statement.

Black Guns Matter

A sad fact of American politics is that black voters overwhelmingly support restrictive gun control, and black politicians make up some of the most anti-gun legislators out there. That's why it might come as a surprise to read that a black hip-hop artist by the name of Maj Toure is hoping to reverse this trend.



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The *Chicago Tribune* reported on May 17 about Toure, a Philadelphia-based rapper and gun owner, and his groundbreaking efforts to get blacks to embrace the Second Amendment.

Toure was shocked when he toured the country as a musician and discovered how many black people were facing criminal charges for illegal possession of firearms. Toure soon found out that many of these people would have been able to legally obtain and carry the guns, but they simply did not even bother to try and comply with the law. So Toure created a grassroots organization entitled “Black Guns Matter” to teach African-Americans about gun rights and firearms education. Toure is currently spending a month in Chicago, which is a hotbed of gun violence and gang activity, and his group has raised thousands of dollars and hosts training seminars all over the nation. Black Guns Matter has received help from NRA members.

The *Chicago Tribune* covered the Black Guns Matter training session in Chicago, which went into detail about how felons, especially those with nonviolent offenses, may get their gun rights restored. Black Guns Matter held their training at a public library in order to attract as many people as possible. Toure felt that a neutral location where guns are not permitted to be carried under state law might make people more at ease when discussing such a controversial subject as looking to get gun rights restored for convicted felons. “They don’t have to be nervous.... It’s a safe, comfortable and open space,” Toure told the *Chicago Tribune*. The Black Guns Matter session also got into standard gun safety, as well as a discussion of First Aid options for treating gunshot wounds. This event was only a small preview of a much larger one that Toure has planned in the near future. Toure has found a sympathetic friend in the group Chicago Guns Matter, which is a local group that also advocates for gun rights and the Second Amendment.

It would appear that this innovative outreach is gaining traction, as Toure saw a good turnout at his event and expects attendance at future seminars to grow. There are similar efforts being spearheaded by other black political activists all over the country to change the hostility of the black community toward the Second Amendment to a perspective of respect and appreciation.

While it is certainly an uphill battle to make inroads in a demographic where polling reveals near unanimous opposition to gun rights and broad support for expansive gun-control measures, one can’t help but applaud the impressive efforts of people such as Toure and groups such as Black Guns Matter to fight for our Second Amendment-protected rights.

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