



Exercising the Right

The Show Must Go On

Anti-gunners seem to never rest when it comes to dreaming up new ways to infringe on our Second Amendment rights. Their latest tactic appears to be legally preventing the organizers of gun shows from putting on these popular events for gun owners. The NBC affiliate in San Diego reported on December 9 about what the news deemed “an end of an era for the Crossroads of the West Gun Show.” The organizers of the event said that they’d love to continue the 30-year-old tradition of hosting the gun show at the Del Mar Fairgrounds, but anti-gun activists are working to change the laws to prevent that from happening.

The board in charge of the fairgrounds voted to put all such types of events on hold. The agenda being pushed by the gun-grabbers is to completely ban the shows, or ban the sale of guns at the shows, or only permit gun shows that are “educational-only.” Rose Ann Sharpe, of neveragainca.org, explained to the NBC affiliate that her group believes guns should not be offered for sale on property owned by the government. “I’m feeling that the community has come together and made a statement.... That the proliferation and sale of guns and ammunition does not belong on public property.... This is a very large venue that glorifies guns on public property.... It just doesn’t need to be on public ground. It doesn’t need to be glorified by the state,” Sharpe told the NBC affiliate. The news also reported that California Governor-elect Gavin Newsom personally asked the board in charge of the fairgrounds to prohibit gun shows from occurring on public land.

Michael Schwartz, executive director of San Diego County Gun Owners PAC, told the NBC affiliate that even though things looked bleak in the short term, he was optimistic about the long term. “It’s just a matter of time before they kick all gun shows off public land.... What we’re going to do is find a new location on private property, and we’re going to make sure that the gun show continues, and that it’s bigger and better.” This is only the beginning of such bans, with similar efforts being tried in other counties in California, with the potential of spreading to other states.

New York Lawmaker Wants a Social-media Check on Future Gun Owners

In other news highlighting the extremes that gun-control zealots will pursue, the Associated Press reported on December 4 about the plans of a New York state lawmaker to carry out what some are calling an invasion of privacy, and others are calling an all-out attack on the Second Amendment. State Senator Kevin Parker from Brooklyn introduced a bill that would require law enforcement to scrutinize social media and the online search history of applicants seeking a gun permit. “We certainly want to make sure we’re putting weapons in the hands of the right people and keeping them out of the hands of the wrong people,” Parker said as he tried to explain the rationale for his bill.

Parker’s bill requires applicants to submit their login information including passwords so police can review three years’ worth of Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter, and Instagram posts and also a year of Google, Yahoo, and Bing searches. Licenses could be denied not just for the discovery of “threats of violence or terrorism,” but also for the use of any politically incorrect language, such as racial or ethnic slurs.



Written by [Patrick Krey](#) on January 6, 2019

Published in the January 7, 2019 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 35, No. 01

The bill is not without its critics, as Tom King, president of the New York State Rifle and Pistol Association, the state's NRA affiliate, warned the legislation was "the slippery slope of taking away your First Amendment free speech rights." Members of law enforcement expressed concern about the backlog such a proposal could create, since background checks and permit approvals already take 120 days to a year throughout most of the state.

Senator Parker was adamant that his bill was necessary and that gun owners had no right to complain about the invasion of privacy. "If you're afraid of your personal privacy... Don't apply for a handgun license," Parker told the Associated Press. Such statements by Senator Parker may reveal that his true intention with the law is not to really prevent guns from falling into the "wrong hands," but to instead deter or discourage people from even applying for a gun permit, so state residents never even get a chance to exercise their Second Amendment rights.

A Shining Example

The Associated Press reported on December 4 about how a woman perfectly illustrated why guns are sometimes referred to as "the great equalizer." The incident began after a violent inmate escaped from a county jail and broke in to one of the first homes he encountered.

Thirty-year-old inmate Bruce McLaughlin, Jr. was described by local police as a "big guy" with a dangerous past. McLaughlin broke in to the woman's house and approached her bedroom around 3 a.m. The woman was awakened by the sounds of the man breaking in to her house and quickly retrieved her firearm. As McLaughlin entered the house and made his way toward the victim's bedroom, the woman fired at the man, hitting him in the head. She called authorities to the scene, where they discovered the deceased suspect.

Pickens County Sheriff Rick Clark expressed gratitude that the woman was able to successfully defend herself against this violent intruder. "If she hadn't had a weapon there's no telling what would have happened," Clark said. The deceased inmate's criminal past included charges for drug possession, assaulting a police officer, shoplifting, and, most recently, first-degree burglary and grand larceny. Clark said his personal opinion is that the shooting was well within the justified use of force under state law, but he will forward the case to prosecutors once his investigation is finished. Referring to this incident as a "shining example" of why gun ownership is so critically important, Clark also said at the press conference, "She came out on the good on this end and the other guy, the bad guy, didn't."

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