

# The Gottlieb-Tartaro Report

THE INSIDERS GUIDE FOR GUN OWNERS

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Dear Subscriber,

President **BARACK OBAMA** is continuing his anti-gun crusade by executive order, going around Congress to get his way. But in the end, it comes down to money - the huge amounts it would cost to pay for his **Now is the Time** initiative, his "plan to protect our children and our communities," as if it would stop the mentally disturbed.

No matter how many orders **OBAMA** gives, **only Congress can authorize the money to pay for them**, so the president has included gun control in his overall budget proposal for fiscal year 2015, which begins October 1.

**OBAMA** requested **\$182 million** for "reducing gun violence through improved background checks by the FBI and improved data via the National Criminal History Improvement Program, **inspections of Federally-licensed firearms dealers**, improved tracing and ballistics analysis, and efforts to keep guns out of the hands of dangerous criminals."

Since **the government has been doing all those things for years** - for example, in 2012, when there were **69,000 firearms retailers**, the ATF said it conducted **13,100 inspections** - the benefit of pouring those extra millions into more of the same seems warped. But it's a vital part of **OBAMA's political agenda to keep the gun control vote with him as tough mid-term elections are only a few months away**.

Using the **OBAMA go-around-Congress ploy**, California Senator **DIANNE FEINSTEIN** is calling on fellow Senators to sign a letter to President **OBAMA** asking him to issue an executive order banning the import of "assault or military weapons" and firearms not "generally recognized as particularly suitable for or readily adaptable to sporting purposes."

**FEINSTEIN** knows that **the ATF can define sporting** as nearly anything thanks to an extremely broad and loose definition. So far, her petition is not attracting much senatorial interest.

Senate Majority Leader **HARRY REID** (D-Nev.) has indefinitely put off a vote on **VIVEK MURTHY's** nomination to be surgeon general - he did not get help he sought from gun control groups.

**MURTHY** once led **Doctors for America**, which promoted medical grounds for banning "assault weapons" and other **impositions on gun rights including mandatory training for gun buyers**, raising massive opposition from Second Amendment defenders nationwide.

Thirteen U.S. Senators including **JERRY MORAN** (R-Kan.), Sen. **PAT ROBERTS** (R-Kan.), and Sen. **THAD COCHRAN** (R-Miss.) have introduced the **Gun-Owner Registration Information Protect (GRIP) Act**, which would **prohibit federal funding from being used to support a gun registry** maintained by any organization, including state and local governments.

The **GRIP Act** would clarify existing law that bars the federal government from **storing information acquired during the firearms background check process**. It would extend that prohibition to **prevent any federal funding from being used to contribute to nonfederal gun registries**. The legislation does not include any limitations related to state recordkeeping for permitting, law enforcement-issued firearms, or lost or stolen firearms.

**Also in this issue:** ● Alabama carry bill advances in legislature ● Florida college faces gun rights lawsuit ● Knife wielders kill 29 in China train station attack ● Detroit police chief urges armed citizenry in our Page 8 Parting Shot.

**AT THE  
FEDERAL  
LEVEL**

**GUN BILL ADVANCES IN ALABAMA LEGISLATURE**

The Alabama Senate is trying to expand gun rights in Alabama by allowing more motorists to carry loaded pistols in their vehicles. The Senate voted 20-7 in favor of a bill by Republican Sen. Scott Beason that would allow motorists without pistol permits to carry loaded pistols in their cars. The bill must be passed by the House and signed by the governor to become law. Currently, a person without a pistol permit can carry a handgun in a vehicle provided it is unloaded and out of reach, but has to buy a pistol permit from a county sheriff to carry loaded.

**ALASKA SENATE PANEL OKS BILL ALLOWING CONCEALED HANDGUNS ON UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES**

A bill to allow people to carry concealed handguns on University of Alaska campuses has advanced from the Senate Judiciary Committee. Senate Bill 176, authored by Republican Sen. John Coghill, would allow concealed carry on campus for those at least 21 with a state concealed carry permit. The Board of Regents currently limits firearms to locked vehicles or specially designated firearms lockers, provisions that Coghill and supporters of the bill said is a violation of the Second Amendment.

**ARIZONA SENATE COMMITTEE APPROVES 5 PRO-GUN BILLS**

The Senate Judiciary Committee has approved five major pro-gun bills, advancing necessary legislation to protect Second Amendment rights. The bills have cleared the state House. Measures provide: weapons in government buildings; authorities to charge a person with aggravated assault for wresting a gun away from someone else; speed up the certification process for high-caliber firearms; and two others.

**FLORIDA WARNING SHOT BILL PASSES HOUSE AND SENATE**

The Florida House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed HB-89, a "warning shot" bill, allowing for a person to brandish a firearm or fire a warning shot when feeling threatened. After two days of intense debate, the House measure was approved 93-24, while the similar bill SB 448 sped through the Senate with bipartisan support. Currently, the law includes no provision for firing a warning shot or showing a weapon.

**IN THE STATES**

**MAJOR GUN RIGHTS BILL PASSES GEORGIA LEGISLATURE**

Georgia's House and Senate lawmakers reached a deal on legislation to expand gun rights in places like bars, churches, and some government buildings. The bill now goes to Governor Nathan Deal's desk. The Georgia House agreed with the Senate version of the bill during the last hour of legislative session. The bill would allow those with gun permits to carry in bars and government buildings without security. It would also give churches the right to opt-in to the law if they wish.

**IDAHO GOVERNOR BUTCH OTTER SIGNS GUNS-ON-CAMPUS BILL INTO LAW**

Idaho Governor C.L. Butch Otter signed into law a bill, SB 1254, that would allow certain individuals to carry concealed handguns onto public college and university property, including inside classrooms.

"As elected officials, we have a sworn responsibility to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States - not only when doing so is easy, convenient or without cost, but especially when it is not," Otter wrote in a statement upon signing the bill. "This legislation challenges us to fulfill that charge, and we will."

**INDIANA GOVERNOR SIGNS BILL TO ALLOW GUNS IN SCHOOL PARKING LOTS**

In line with his history of support for gun rights, Indiana Gov. Mike Pence signed into law a measure to allow adults to keep guns locked in their vehicles in school parking lots. "Governor Pence believes in the right to keep and bear arms," spokeswoman Kara Brooks said. "This is a common sense reform that accomplishes the goal of keeping parents and law-abiding citizens from being charged with a felony when they pick their kids up at school or go to cheer on the local basketball team."

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### MICHIGAN HOUSE PASSES GUN RECORDS CONFIDENTIALITY BILLS

The House moved to broaden gun owners' rights by voting to reaffirm the confidential status of gun records, clarify the definition of "brandishing" a gun and lift a ban on short-barreled rifles. A Republican package of bills passed by a wide margin, with 81-28 the closest vote. The bills would codify a 1999 Michigan Supreme Court decision that found the disclosure of gun registry records to be "a clearly unwarranted invasion of an individual's privacy."

### MISSISSIPPI GUN PROTECTION BILL HEADED TO GOVERNOR'S DESK

A Mississippi bill that would safeguard gun-owner rights during natural disasters and from local municipalities seeking to regulate gun possession is now headed to the governor's desk for signature. The bill, HB314, forbids confiscation of legally owned firearms in the event of emergency or natural disaster as well as provides for guns in public housing, passed the state Senate with amendments by a 40-11 vote and was confirmed in the House by a 103-18 vote.

### LOWER CAPACITY FOR GUN MAGAZINES APPROVED BY NEW JERSEY ASSEMBLY PANEL

Despite the protests of dozens of New Jersey gun-rights supporters – including a 9-year-old girl – a state Assembly panel today approved a bill that would reduce the number of bullets an ammunition magazine could hold from 15 to 10. The bill (A2006) was approved by a 5-3 vote along party lines after a three-hour-long hearing. The question is what Gov. Chris Christie will do when it reaches his desk. Last year Christie vetoed bills sought by gun-control advocates.

### NEW HAMPSHIRE HOUSE TABLES GUN LAW STUDY COMMITTEE IDEA

A second attempt at creating a committee to study the state's gun laws failed to muster support in the House. But instead of killing the bill outright, lawmakers placed it on the table, meaning it could come back later in the session with enough support. "A simple bill with good intentions was targeted by anti-Second Amendment advocates in the Legislature as a vehicle for their agenda," House Minority Leader Gene Chandler, a Bartlett Republican, said in a statement after the vote.

### PENNSYLVANIA LAWMAKERS MOVE TO TIGHTEN GUN CONTROL FOR PHILADELPHIA

A committee of the Pennsylvania House gave initial approval to several firearms bills, including one that would increase the penalty for illegally carrying a gun on the streets of Philadelphia. The House Judiciary Committee advanced the bill, sponsored by Rep. John Taylor (R-Phila.), which will create a minimum two-year prison sentence for someone who carries a gun in Philadelphia that is not licensed or exempt from licensing and who is not the owner of the weapon. "This mandatory minimum was very successful in New York," Taylor said.

### SOUTH DAKOTA PANEL PASSES BILL TO KEEPS GUNS FROM MENTALLY ILL

By a 5-2 vote, South Dakota's Senate Judiciary Committee approved House Bill 1229, which would keep guns from certain people with mental issues by adding their names to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System. First, a person has to be involuntarily committed and be a danger to him or herself or the public. Also, at a future time, that person could have his or her Second Amendment rights restored. The bill goes now to the floor for a final vote.

### VIRGINIA GOVERNOR MCAULIFFE PUSHES GUN CONTROL WITH HIS FIRST VETO

Virginia's new governor, Terry McAuliffe, used his veto power for the first time to kill a bill allowing gun owners to carry a weapon in an unlocked glove box of their cars. Delegate Ben Cline, R-Rockbridge County, a sponsor of the bill, said, "The governor is clearly listening to his friends in the gun-control lobby instead of the majority of Virginians who support the Second Amendment."

### WEST VIRGINIA GOVERNOR SIGNS PREEMPTION BILL, MAYOR WHINES

A preemption bill that nullifies West Virginia city gun ordinances more restrictive than state law was signed into law by West Virginia Governor Earl Ray Tomblin over the objections of Charleston's mayor. Senate Bill 317 was widely received in the State Senate, where it passed unanimously, before soaring through the State House of Delegates by a 92-5 vote. Charleston, West Virginia, Mayor Danny Jones opposed the bill, and expects "to proceed to Kanawha County Circuit Court," to challenge the new law.

**IN THE STATES**

### **SAF, CALGUNS SCORE NINTH CIRCUIT VICTORY IN RICHARDS CARRY CASE**

The Second Amendment Foundation and The Calguns Foundation have earned a significant victory: the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals reversed and remanded the case of Richards v. Prieto, which challenged the handgun carry license issuing policy of Sheriff Ed Prieto of Yolo County, California. Yolo County's policy requiring citizens to prove they face a threat of violence or robbery before they can get a concealed weapon permit "impermissibly infringes on the Second Amendment right to bear arms in lawful self-defense," a three-judge panel ruled.

The victory adds to the February appeals court ruling that San Diego County's sheriff cannot demand proof that a citizen has "good cause" before a concealed weapon permit can be obtained. SAF founder and Executive Vice President Alan M. Gottlieb said, "California officials have been put on notice that they can no longer treat the Second Amendment as a heavily-regulated government privilege."

### **FLORIDA COLLEGE IS LATEST TO FACE GUN RIGHTS LAWSUIT**

Florida Carry Inc., a Lehigh Acres-based group, has sued St. Petersburg College, making the school the latest target in a campaign to overturn bans on guns stored in cars in campus parking lots. The suit was filed in circuit court in Pinellas County asserting that policies included in SPC's student and employee codes of conduct violate state law. Florida Carry brings the weight of an appellate court ruling from December after the group sued the University of North Florida in Duval County. A lower court threw out the suit, but an appeals court in Tallahassee took the case and ruled that the state Legislature has exclusive responsibility for gun policy.

**IN THE  
COURTS**

### **NEW YORK JUDGE TOSSES OUT SAFE ACT CHARGE AGAINST GUN OWNER**

Lockport, New York, police violated Paul A. Wojdan's constitutional rights by counting the bullets in his gun and charging him with violating New York's SAFE Act, Lockport City Judge William J. Watson ruled. Watson dismissed a misdemeanor charge against Wojdan, filed because the magazine of his 9 mm Ruger handgun contained 10 bullets, more than the limit of seven bullets per magazine under the Secure Ammunition and Firearms Enforcement Act.

Wojdan, 26, wasn't all that happy after court, despite the dismissal of the criminal charge, because he won't immediately get all his guns back. His lawyer said they will file a motion before Niagara County Judge Matthew J. Murphy III for the return of the guns.

### **DELAWARE COURT BARS LIMITS ON GUN IN PUBLIC HOUSING**

The Delaware Supreme Court has ruled that the Wilmington Housing Authority cannot prohibit residents from carrying guns in common areas. The court unanimously ruled that the housing authority's ban on residents carrying firearms in common areas such as lounges, halls and laundry rooms is not allowed under Delaware's constitution. A federal judge in Delaware had prohibited possessing weapons in common areas.

A federal lawsuit filed in 2010 challenged WHA's outright ban on guns. The housing authority subsequently loosened the policy following a U.S. Supreme Court ruling affirming the Second Amendment rights of individuals.

### **APPEALS COURT UPHOLDS STRICT SAN FRANCISCO GUN LAWS**

A federal appeals court on Tuesday upheld two San Francisco gun laws challenged by the National Rifle Association and gun owners who live in the city. San Francisco requires handgun owners to secure weapons in their homes by storing them in a locker, keeping them on their bodies or applying trigger locks. The city also bans the sale of ammunition that expands on impact, has "no sporting purpose" and is commonly referred to as hollow-point bullets.

The San Francisco-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said the requirements are reasonable attempts to increase public safety without trampling on Second Amendment rights. Judge Sandra Ikuta, writing for the unanimous three-judge panel, said modern gun lockers can be opened quickly and "may be readily accessed in case of an emergency." She also said that gun owners concerned about safety can carry them around the home as well. Chuck Michel, the lead attorney on the NRA-backed lawsuit, will appeal, saying, "Self-defense is not a sport."

### COUNTY IN NEW YORK TO APPEAL DECISION ON GUN RECORDS

Putnam County officials intend to fight on after a state judge ruled that the county must divulge the names of handgun owners who declined to "opt out" of public disclosure under New York's 2013 gun control law. State Supreme Court Justice Robert Neary, based in Westchester County, ruled in favor of The Journal News newspaper and its corporate parent, Gannett Satellite Information Network, Inc., against Putnam County, whose county clerk, Dennis Sant, refused to provide the newspaper with information on registered pistol owners. Under Neary's ruling, the county is now supposed to give the newspaper the list of permit holders who did not seek confidentiality. "This is truly a call to action and it has to be 'all hands on deck,'" said Sant.

### AMICUS BRIEF: FEDERAL SURVEILLANCE POLICIES COULD LEAD TO GUN REGISTRY

The National Rifle Association has filed a friend-of-the-court brief in a case in federal court in New York challenging the federal government's data surveillance techniques, arguing the data collection violates the First Amendment and could undermine federal privacy laws that prohibit the formation of a registry of firearms or gun owners. The brief is supporting a request by the American Civil Liberties Union to reverse a ruling from the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York that upheld the surveillance policies.

## IN THE COURTS

In its brief, the NRA argued the government's mass surveillance program "could provide the government with the means of identifying members and others who communicate with the NRA and other Second Amendment advocacy groups."

### CALIFORNIA CITY'S GUN LIMIT UPHOLD IN COURT

A federal judge has allowed Sunnyvale, California, to enforce a voter-approved ban on large-capacity gun magazines, saying it would have little impact on the constitutional right to possess firearms for self-defense. The ruling came two weeks after another judge rejected gun advocates' attempt to block a similar law in San Francisco.

Although millions of Americans own guns with magazines carrying more than 10 cartridges, "it is rare that anyone will need to fire more than 10 rounds in self-defense," U.S. District Judge Ronald Whyte of San Jose said in his ruling denying an injunction against the Sunnyvale ordinance. He cited a National Rifle Association report that found Americans who used their firearms to defend themselves fired an average of 2.1-2.2 shots.

### MEDICAL MARIJUANA USER LOSES SUIT TO RESTORE GUN RIGHTS

Rowan Wilson, a Nevada healthcare profession with a medical marijuana card, attempted to purchase a firearm for self-defense, but the gun shop owner told her that the ATF issued a regulation just a week before that forbade her purchase, so she sued, said Wilson's attorney, Chaz Rainey. "The logic of the ATF letter was that if you have this card, you are presumed - without any judge, jury, or facts - you're presumed to be an unlawful user of marijuana, and therefore under federal law you're prohibited from owning or possessing a firearm," said Rainey. U.S. District Court Judge Gloria Navarro ruled against Wilson, saying her argument that the ban on drug users owning guns violates the Second Amendment fails as a matter of law, citing several appeals court rulings on the issue.

### DOMESTIC ABUSER LOSES FIGHT FOR GUN RIGHTS

A Tennessee man once convicted of injuring his girlfriend must face weapons charges based on a federal law that includes him as a domestic abuser, the Supreme Court has ruled. Federal authorities sought to prosecute James Alvin Castleman under this law for selling firearms on the black market. Seven years earlier, Castleman had pleaded guilty to the misdemeanor offense of having "intentionally or knowingly cause[d] bodily injury to" the mother of his child, but a federal judge and the 6th Circuit sided with Castleman, saying that violence had not been proved. After taking up the case in October, the Supreme Court was unanimous in reversing, meaning Castleman must stand trial. Justice Sonia Sotomayor wrote for the court, "Whereas the word 'violent' or 'violence' standing alone 'connotes a substantial degree of force,' that is not true of 'domestic violence.'"

**GUN NEWS TICKER - QUICK TAKES ON THE NEWS**

● **San Francisco, California:** California State Sen. Leland Yee, D-San Francisco, was arrested during a series of raids by the FBI in Sacramento and the San Francisco Bay Area and charged with conspiring to commit wire fraud and trafficking firearms, part of a sweeping public corruption case outlined by federal prosecutors. Yee was arraigned in federal court with 19 other defendants and released on a \$500,000 bond after surrendering his passport.

● **Los Angeles, California:** The Los Angeles Times was stunned. It reported, "Gun trafficking charges go against Sen. Leland Yee's stand as a gun control advocate. In 2006, Yee was named to the Gun Violence Prevention Honor Roll by the Brady Campaign for his efforts that included co-authoring a first-in-the-nation bill to require new semiautomatic handguns be equipped with ballistics identification technology known as micro-stamping. In 2013, he stood with law enforcement officials and then-Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa to propose a bill that would regulate assault weapons."

● **Bellevue, Washington:** Criminal charges against anti-gun Sen. Yee show the contemptible nature of the gun prohibition movement, because among the allegations is one that he was involved in a conspiracy to traffic firearms, the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms said. "If these allegations are true," said CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb, "Sen. Yee is easily the biggest hypocrite on gun control to walk the halls of the capitol in Sacramento, if not the entire United States."

● **Sacramento, California:** Gun-control groups said they were trying to find a new legislative leader to champion firearms restrictions after Sen. Leland Yee, one of their most outspoken supporters, was arraigned on gun charges. "This really leaves us scrambling for someone to pick up that mantle," said Paul Song, executive chairman of Courage Campaign, a nonprofit advocacy group. "What we're really worried about is that this will further destroy the momentum for gun control here in California."

● **Providence, Rhode Island:** The Rhode Island legislature had convened to vote on gun control measures and radio host Dan Bidondi was in the vicinity to capture comments from the politicians. He ran into Democrat Senator Josh Miller. Bidondi, who hosts Truth Radio Show, said to Miller, "The Second Amendment shall not be infringed, you people need to understand that." Miller replied in a shockingly calm manner, "Go f\*ck yourself." Miller later sent a letter of apology after he had to abandon Facebook because 700 protests clogged his page. However, MSNBC host Chris Hayes defended Miller's obscene remark as "absolutely justifiable."

● **New York City:** HBO's Real Time with Bill Maher featured Democrat Rep. Keith Ellison of Minnesota talking about gun control when Maher said, "Why doesn't your party come out against the Second Amendment? It's the problem." Ellison replied, "I sure wish they would. I sure wish they would." Gun owners may consider that it's the First Amendment that's the problem, but they're decent human beings and respect all of the Bill of Rights.

● **Hollywood, California:** Cindy Horn and her husband, Walt Disney Studios chairman Alan Horn, were preparing to host a fund-raising event for Democrats Mark Begich of Alaska and Mark Pryor of Arkansas - both in tough races - at their home, when it caught the attention of gun control groups. They urged her to cancel the fundraiser because the two had voted "No" on a vote to consider background check legislation. They wanted Horn instead to raise funds for Senate candidates in tough races who voted for the background checks, including Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-La.), Sen. Kay Hagan (D-N.C.), Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.) and Sen. Mark Udall (D-Colo.).

● **Washington, D.C.:** The Hill reports that anti-gun groups have been putting increased pressure on private businesses to ban firearms in their stores, offices and on their websites. Starbucks has asked customers not to bring firearms into its stores, even if they have the legal right. And Facebook has begun to crack down on buying and selling firearms on social media.

**GUN NEWS TICKER - QUICK TAKES ON THE NEWS**

● **Clemson, South Carolina:** The barkeep at Clemson's Backstreets Pub and Deli put up a nasty sign banning guns in his business - state carry laws allow businesses to do that - and called gun owners "Douchebags." That did not sit right with gun owners, who overnight dumped his bar's rating on Yelp!, Gawker, and other sites, down to a mere one-and-a-half stars, with nearly 300 reviews. Gun owners as far away as Oregon left a few choice comments along with best wishes for a speedy bankruptcy.

● **Chicago, Illinois:** A billboard on the side of I-55 is drawing both criticism and support due to its contents. Above the words "Pure American" are three objects: a baseball glove, apple pie, and a semiautomatic rifle. According to ABC7, the billboard was paid for by Texas-based firearm accessories manufacturer Slide Fire. The sign uses little in the way of words to link American patriotism with gun ownership, and in the corner a "2A" symbol stands next to the American flag. The abbreviation is, of course, for the Second Amendment.

● **Grand Island, New York:** Shane Kinney, a 16-year-old sophomore from Grand Island, located between Niagara Falls and Buffalo, said he served a one-day, in-school suspension after he refused to turn his NRA T-shirt inside out at the request of the vice principal at Grand Island High School. The shirt was emblazoned with the NRA logo and the words, "2nd Amendment Shall not be Infringed" across the back.

● **Sunnyvale, California:** A new city ordinance says anyone in Sunnyvale caught with a magazine that holds more than 10 rounds of ammunition is subject to a \$1,000 fine, six months in jail or both. A week after the law went into effect, Sunnyvale police say nobody has showed up at the city's Department of Public Safety to turn over their magazines. One of those high-capacity magazine owners is 67-year-old Leonard Fyock, who is also a plaintiff in a lawsuit challenging the law. He said he simply gathered his soon-to-be-contraband ammunition holders and took them outside of Sunnyvale limits.

● **San Francisco, California:** Californians have flooded several sheriff offices with applications and inquiries for permits to carry concealed guns. Demand is being driven by a federal appeals court ruling last month that made it easier for residents to obtain the hard-to-get permits. The 9th U.S. District Court of Appeals ruled February 13 that law-abiding residents need only to show a desire for self-defense rather than proving they were confronted with a "clear and present danger."

● **Kunming, China:** On March 1st a group of attackers armed with knives stormed a Chinese train station, killing at least 29 and injuring more than 130 others before good guys with guns showed up to end the attack. According to NBC News, "four of the attackers were shot dead," and "one was captured alive." China has used draconian gun control measures to keep the Chinese people disarmed. However, as the knife attack reminds us, once a population is disarmed, a successful attack with more primitive weapons becomes feasible.

● **Richmond, Virginia:** Former Virginia attorney general Ken Cuccinelli and three partners have launched Virginia Self Defense Law, a firm focused on defending Second Amendment rights - for less than \$10 a month. With bargain-basement pricing and a cheeky slogan - "Defending those who defend themselves" - the venture seeks to tap into a feeling among some gun owners that the right to bear arms is under attack.

● **Hartford, Connecticut:** Gun rights supporter Martha Dean shook up the Republican primary for governor when she unexpectedly announcing she was entering the crowded field. A former two-time statewide candidate, Dean has been working recently with fellow attorneys who are representing gun owners in their battle against the state's new gun laws. Dean's entrance into the race came on the same day as the departure of Sen. Toni Boucher, who will instead seek reelection to the Senate representing her hometown of Wilton and surrounding communities.

# Parting Shot

## DETROIT TOP COP URGES CITIZENS TO ARM THEMSELVES - AND THEY'RE DOING IT

Police Chief James Craig caused a national stir in January when he told The Detroit News he felt the city's crime rate would go down if more people were armed because it would make criminals think twice about breaking into their homes or attacking them.

The number of crimes in Detroit hasn't gone down, but the number of criminals has - victims are shooting them dead during their crimes.

Headlines such as, "Three separate Detroit residents shoot intruders in one week, two killed," are becoming common. The stories are almost repetitious:

- A woman shot and killed a man trying to break into her west side home, making it the third time this week that a Detroit homeowner with a legal firearm has killed an intruder.

- At 2 a.m., two men broke into a house on Toledo Street on the city's southwest side and scuffled with the homeowner, who grabbed his gun and shot both men. A 21-year-old man died, while the other man escaped.

- About 12:30 a.m. on Abrington, on the city's west side, when a woman pulled her car into the garage and was surprised by a gunman, she threw her keys to distract the man, reached for her own gun, and fatally shot him.

- Two men allegedly broke into a home on the 8200 block of Penrod on the city's west side. The resident fired two shots hitting the criminal in his chest. The juvenile intruder died. His suspected accomplice, a man in his 20s, fled the scene and is still at-large - at least the fifth such incident in recent weeks.

- A cluster of armed defenses from intruders in Detroit has given ammunition to the police chief's support for an armed populace as a way to combat crime.

The stories go on and on. Craig's position on an armed citizenry is relatively rare among urban police chiefs, who tend to press for handgun restrictions.

But there are fewer cases in which the armed citizen is prosecuted for self-defense, thanks to "castle doctrine" laws.

In Texas, a North Houston homeowner at an apartment along Dominion Park near Kuykendahl shot and killed an intruder, according to Harris County deputies. The man heard loud noises at his front door and saw two strangers barging in so he grabbed his gun and took aim. He shot and killed one of the men and won't be charged.

Maybe not fewer crimes, but certainly fewer criminals.

*Alan M. Gottlieb*

*Joseph D. Tartaro*

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