



REPORTER

THE 29TH ANNUAL GRPC IS COMING BACK TO CHICAGO

With new attacks on our gun rights coming every day from the federal, state, and local levels of government, the time to act is now. With a record number of Second Amendment cases in the courts, and the important upcoming mid-term election, your attendance to the 29th annual Gun Rights Policy Conference (GRPC) will be critical. An important nationally recognized conference, GRPC has previously been profiled in national news programs and publications.

This year's GRPC returns to the city of Chicago, Illinois, to celebrate gun-rights victories which have cascaded through the state in recent years. First, SAF's McDonald v. Chicago case abolished Chicago's unconstitutional handgun ban and incorporated the Second Amendment against the states. Later, SAF's Ezell v. Chicago case managed to overcome Chicago's ban on shooting ranges and extremist anti-gun handgun licensing requirements. Most recently, Illinois became the final state in the union to enact concealed carry as a result of SAF's court victory in Moore v. Madigan.

The 2014 GRPC will be action-packed with over 50 speakers hand-picked from the leadership of the Gun Rights Movement, the topics to be presented promise to have an impact that will help direct the path of Second Amendment rights for years to come. This is an opportunity for in-depth first-hand interaction with nationally recognized pro-gun policy advocates. It is the most important yearly gathering of pro-gun activists, scholars, legal experts, media, and bloggers.

Top Second Amendment legal experts will be present to lead discussions on legal theory about the cases resulting from Supreme Court decisions in Heller and McDonald, and the path ahead in litigating Second Amendment court cases.



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 29th Annual Gun Rights Policy Conference (GRPC 2014) in Chicago, Illinois. This is your once-a-year chance to network and get an insider look and plan pro-gun rights strategies for the coming year.

Past GRPCs have outlined victory plans and made public the latest firearms 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: city gun bans, "smart" guns, concealed carry, federal legislation, legal actions, gun show regulation, state and local activity. We'll preview the 2014 elections, discuss state legislative battles and analyze Right to Keep and Bear Arms court cases.

The full roster of GRPC 2014 speakers has not yet been set. Past speakers have included: Alan M. Gottlieb, Joseph P. Tartaro, Eugene Volokh, G. Gordon Liddy, Michael Reagan, Larry Elder, Ken Hamblin, John Lott, Sandy Froman, Massad Ayoob, Tom Gresham, Alan Gura, Reps. Bob Barr and Joe Barton and many others. Check our web sites = www.saf.org or www.ccrkba.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, Friday and Saturday evening receptions and morning and afternoon snack breaks. Other meals, travel and lodging are to be paid by attendees. After you register, you will be mailed information about hotel reservations, invited speakers and a tentative agenda in August.

2014 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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Discussions will include the many lawsuits undertaken by the Second Amendment Foundation, the anti-rights crusade of Michael Bloomberg, bans on semi-automatic guns and magazines, concealed carry reciprocity, federal and state legislation, gun show regulation, "smart" guns, the UN Arms Trade Treaty, BATFE policies, micro-stamping, firearms industry, public opinion trends, and effective pro-gun activism.

This is a once a year event and will involve state, local, and national leaders in the gun rights movement. Past GRPCs outlined victory plans and made public the latest in pro-gun public policy. The full roster of GRPC 2014 speakers has not yet been set. Past speakers include: Alan M. Gottlieb, Joseph P. Tartaro, Eugene Volokh,

Wayne LaPierre, Michael Reagan, Larry Elder, Bob Barr, John Lott, Sandy Froman, Massad Ayoob, Tom Gresham, Alan Gura, G. Gordon Liddy, Larry Pratt, Emily Miller and many others.

The SAF Board of Trustees has elected to help underwrite the cost of the event. The cost to register and attend the 29th annual Gun Rights Policy Conference is absolutely free! The Second Amendment Foundation will not only pick up the tab for lunch and refreshments, but will also provide more than \$125 worth of free vital pro-gun rights materials to each attendee. In addition, attendees will have the opportunity to chat with the speakers at the two evening planned receptions.

Free registration the 29th Annual Gun Rights Policy Conference at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare Airport on September 26, 27, & 28, 2014, can be made at SAF.org to register online, or print a registration form directly from the www.SAF.org/GRPC. To register by phone please call SAF (425) 454-7012.

BLOOMBERG'S NEW \$50 MILLION GUN CONTROL PUSH

Billionaire former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced the launch of a new, big money, gun control group called "Everytown for Gun Safety," to be financed with 50 Million dollars of his own money. Designed to out-muscle the gun rights movement, Bloomberg's new \$50 million effort is "a restructuring of the gun control groups he funds, Mayors Against Illegal Guns (MAIG) and Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America," according to the *New York Times*. While not credible as a grassroots effort, Bloomberg's umpteenth attempt to fire up the public against gun freedoms should only renew the call for all supporters of our firearms civil rights to get involved in the fight and support their favorite gun rights groups.

Bloomberg said gun control advocates need to learn from gun rights activists and threatened to punish those politicians who fail to support their agenda — even Democrats whose positions otherwise align with his own. Bloomberg ran three times for his former mayor's office, once as a Republican, once as a Democrat, and once as an Independent. "They say, 'We don't care. We're going to go after you,'" he said of the gun rights crowd. "If you don't vote with us we're going to go after your kids and your grandkids and your great-grandkids. And we're never going to stop." He added: "We've got to make them afraid of us."

Bloomberg's blueprint re-imagines the way gun control advocates have traditionally confronted the issue. Rather than relying so heavily on television ad campaigns, Bloomberg will put a large portion of his resources into the often unseen field operations that have been effective for gun rights advocates in driving single-issue, like-minded voters to the polls.

Fortunately for freedom loving Americans everywhere, the launch went anything but smoothly. In the days after the launch, scores of Facebook pages popped up with the name "Everytown for Gun Safety" for several states and even local communities. The irony was that most were the work of gun rights activists waging guerrilla warfare against Bloomberg's new gun control lobbying effort.

All of the Facebook pages had one thing in common. They all actually promote gun safety, as opposed to gun control. The launch of so many Facebook pages in the wake of Bloomberg's announcement underscores the ferocity of Second Amendment activists and the lack of preparation of an expensive \$50 million group with barely a small fraction of the members and supporters. In the process of setting it all up, disguised as a "grass roots" effort, somebody in Bloomberg's camp evidently forgot Facebook. That left the door open for real grassroots activists to quickly register the name "Everytown for Gun Safety."

There were individual Facebook pages for EGS chapters in Illinois, Idaho, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota and South Carolina, and those are just examples. A quick glance also shows separate pages for EGS chapters in Washington, Texas, California, Florida and most other states as well.

Many of those states are among the ones Bloomberg's \$50 million so-called "grass roots" effort is targeting this year, according to the *New York Times*. That story identified Washington, Colorado, Texas, Montana and Indiana among 15 states where he will put the "Everytown" financial emphasis.

While NBC's story about Bloomberg's new campaign insisted he "isn't trying to outspend the National Rifle Association," the *New York Times* piece specifically noted that the NRA "has spent only \$20 million annually on political activities." The former mayor insisted in his NBC interview that "This is not a battle of dollars, it's a battle for the hearts and minds of America, so that we can protect our children, protect innocent people."

Second Amendment activists look at it from a different perspective. This is a battle to protect the constitutional rights of the next generation from people like Bloomberg who think their deep pockets somehow entitle them to buy elections and force their philosophy on the entire nation.

Despite the many laughs that can be had on the topic right now, Second Amendment activists and advocates need to step forward to support pro-gun causes.

If each gun owner in this fine country would give just a dollar to groups like SAF, we could easily counter the anti-freedom Bloomberg agenda on the national stage. We already have the support of many more Americans than he does, imagine if we could match his budget.



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SAF SADDENED BY LOSS OF TWO GUN RIGHTS GREATS

Second Amendment icon Otis McDonald, who fought Chicago's handgun ban all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, died in April following a long illness. He was 80.

Born in Fort Necessity, La., Mr. McDonald moved north to Chicago after serving in the U.S. Army. Mr. McDonald arrived in the Windy City with \$7 in his pocket that he had been given by his mother, and for a time he stayed with a friend while searching for and finally landing a job.

Mr. McDonald worked in several jobs before finding a career at the University of Chicago, where he worked as a journeyman engineer. He worked his way through college, earning a degree in engineering from Kennedy-King College in Chicago and later served as president of his local trade union.

Mr. McDonald will always be remembered for his role in the Chicago lawsuit. He wanted a handgun for home protection in that city, but the ban on new licensing that was instituted in the early 1980s prevented that. Supported by the Second Amendment Foundation and with representation from Alan Gura of Heller fame and Chicago attorney David Sigale, the battle against the city's onerous gun law was taken to federal court, bolstered by the Heller ruling that struck down the handgun ban in the District of Columbia as unconstitutional under the Second Amendment.

Ultimately the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the city of Chicago's handgun ban violated the Second Amendment, and that the right to keep and bear arms was incorporated to the states via the 14th Amendment. There were three other plaintiffs in the case, which was named for Mr. McDonald as lead plaintiff.

Mr. McDonald is survived by his wife, Laura and their children, Chandra and Sheila, both of Chicago, and two other daughters and a son, Jessie

Marie Jones, Dorsey Lightener and Jerome Garrison. He was preceded in death by a son, Kelvin.

"Otis truly loved people," Mr. Gura recalled. "He was universally kind, patient, and positive, and wanted very much to see his neighbors enjoying their freedom to which they are entitled. We all owe Otis a debt of gratitude that he could fulfill that wish."

SAF founder and Executive Vice President Alan Gottlieb, recalled being at the Supreme Court when the landmark ruling in his case was handed down. It was a moment that brings tears to his eyes as he remembers what transpired.

"Walking down the stairs from the Supreme Court from our victory," Gottlieb said, "Otis told me that he promised his mother that he would one day make her proud. He hugged me and I told him, 'Truth is, Otis, you made us all proud.'"

In addition to Messieurs Gura and Sigale, SAF was represented at Mr. McDonald's funeral service by its Director of Operations, Julianne Versnel.

At the same time SAF also mourned the passing of Patricia Burke Tartaro. Mrs. Tartaro, married to SAF President Joe Tartaro for more than 63 years, passed away after several weeks of serious illness on April 14, 2014. While her passing was noteworthy to members of the Second Amendment Foundation because of her marriage to Joe, she should also be remembered for her own contributions to the pro-gun community.

Joe, in a remembrance published in the SAF's *The Gun Mag*, reminded us that while Pat was not a pro-gun activist in the traditional sense of the term, her contributions to the cause were vast. Pat was not an avid gunowner and collector like others in her family. She was a teacher, striving hard to help disabled and underprivileged children learn and succeed. In 1980

she received the Third Amendment award from the Shooters Committee on Political Education (SCOPE, Inc. of New York). The award had a dual meaning: first, in recognition of the fact that she had quartered (meaning housed and/or fed) so many soldiers of the Second Amendment cause; and second, because of her support for the Castle Doctrine that has its roots in the Third Amendment to the Constitution.

Pat was also a regular participant at various national gun-related events, such as the annual NRA meetings and exhibits, the Shooting Hunting and Outdoor Trade (SHOT) Shows, the annual Gun Rights Policy Conferences conducted jointly by the Second Amendment Foundation and Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms. In addition, she attended NRA Foundation dinners, local gun events, Leadership Training Conferences, and helped inspire and organize the Second Amendment Foundation's Firearms and Fiction seminars, often in cooperation with other gun industry or other gun-related companies. In fact, it was perhaps her recognition that the writers of mainstream fiction often got the "guns part" wrong in their books or screenplays that helped start the seminars in the first place.

As word of Pat's passing has become more common knowledge in the gun community, her family received emails and phone calls from many in the gun community who share our grief at her passing. No, she was not a pro-gunner or gun enthusiast in the usual sense, but in a broader sense that binds together the Third Amendment, with the First, the Second and the Fourth as part of the whole Bill of Rights.

Among her pallbearers were a grandson, a grand nephew, a neighbor of some 50 years, as well as SAF founder Alan Gottlieb, and his son, Andrew.

SAF, CALGUNS SCORE NINTH CIRCUIT VICTORY IN RICHARDS CARRY CASE

The Second Amendment Foundation and Calguns Foundation earned a significant victory in March when the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals reversed and remanded the case of Richards v. Prieto, ordering a lower court to proceed with the case in a manner that upholds the Second Amendment's clear mandate in support of the carrying of firearms for self-defense. This case involved the a challenge to the handgun carry license issuing policy of Yolo County, California, Sheriff Ed Prieto, seeking a policy that would essentially be shall issue for those who are qualified to receive the license.

"The ruling reinforces the Second Amendment's application to state and local governments, and will help clear the way for more California citizens to exercise their right to bear arms," said SAF founder and Executive Vice President Alan M. Gottlieb. "California officials have been put on notice that they can no longer treat the Second Amendment as a heavily-regulated government privilege."

The case was originally filed in 2009 as Sykes v. McGinness, and challenged not only Yolo County's policies, but Sacramento County's then-restrictive practices as well. SAF, Calguns and two private citizens continued pursuing the case against Yolo County after Sacramento County agreed to relax its policy. Plaintiffs are represented by attorneys Alan Gura and Don Kilmer.

The Richards case was argued at the same time, and to the same panel, that decided Peruta v. County of San Diego, a similar case challenging overly-restrictive carry license policies in San Diego. Yolo County and Sheriff Prieto argued that their policies were distinguishable from those struck down in Peruta, but apparently the three-judge panel unanimously disagreed.

Gottlieb noted that the battle over right-to-carry laws is far from over, but today's Ninth Circuit decision reaffirms that court's earlier ruling in the Peruta case and "moves the ball another step forward."

"We will pursue Second Amendment affirmation wherever and whenever such cases are possible as SAF fights to win back gun rights one lawsuit at a time," Gottlieb stated.

NY OFFICIALS AGREE TO NOT ENFORCE 7-ROUND MAGAZINE LIMIT

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo and State Police Superintendent Joseph D'Amico have agreed, in a stipulated order, to not enforce a section of the state's controversial SAFE (Secure Ammunition and Firearms Enforcement) Act while an appeal is underway in one of the legal challenges to that statute, amounting to a small but important victory for the Second Amendment Foundation in a challenge to the constitutionality of a provision in the law. The last issue of the Reporter noted that SAF had amended the complaint to add plaintiffs in this case because of an outcry among large number of affected New Yorkers.

At issue is the arbitrary seven-round limit on magazine capacity that was included in the SAFE Act under Section 265.37 of that law. At trial in the case of New York State Rifle and Pistol Assn, Inc. v. Cuomo, Judge William M. Skretny ruled that the section dealing with the magazine limit is unconstitutional. He upheld other provisions in the Act.

SAF is joined in its separate action by SCOPE, Inc., Long Island Firearms LLC and seven individual citizens, Matthew Caron, Matthew Gudger, Jeffrey Murray, MD., Gary Wehner, John Amidon, Nunzio Calce and James Middleton.

"We're delighted with the agreement that there will be no enforcement of the magazine limit anywhere in the Empire

LEGAL BRIEFS

State while the State Rifle and Pistol Association's appeal is pending," said SAF founder and Executive Vice President Alan M. Gottlieb. "Where the challenge may have only affected New York's western district, now the stay is statewide.

"We are hopeful that our good friends at the New York State Rifle and Pistol Association will prevail," he continued, "and for the time being, our motion is a small win for gun owners from Long Island to Lake Erie."

SAF, Long Island Firearms and individual citizens Matthew Caron, Matthew Gudger, Jeffrey Murray, MD., Gary Wehner, John Amidon, Nunzio Calce are represented by New York attorney David Jensen, PLLC. SCOPE and James Middleton are represented by Robert P. Firriolo, Boutin & Altieri P.L.L.C.

SAF PETITIONS SUPREME COURT FOR REVIEW OF NEW YORK CCW FEE CASE

The Second Amendment Foundation has filed a petition to the U.S. Supreme Court for review of its challenge to the exorbitant gun permit fees charged by the City of New York. The case is Kwong v. de Blasio.

SAF is joined in the lawsuit – which was filed in 2011 against former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who has been replaced by current Mayor Bill de Blasio – by the New York State Rifle & Pistol Association and seven private citizens. They are represented by New York attorney David Jensen.

The lawsuit challenges New York City's \$340 fee for a three-year handgun license, which is the highest such fee imposed for a gun possession license anywhere in the United States. SAF founder and Executive Vice President Alan Gottlieb noted that the fee anywhere else in the entire state of New York is \$10, but the city is exempted from that law, the city's higher fee, he said, "discourages city residents from exercising their civil rights while

violating the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment."

"The fee structure discriminates against all but the wealthy and well-connected elites," Gottlieb said. "This prohibitively high fee leaves average citizens defenseless due to their financial situation, but the right of self-defense and exercise of the Second Amendment should not be limited solely to those with deep pockets and fat wallets."

The federal district court and the Second Circuit Court of Appeals both sided with the city's argument that the higher fee is allowable to recover costs and promote public safety.

"This recurring fee constitutes a substantial burden on the exercise of a fundamental civil right," Gottlieb stated. "Nowhere in the Constitution does it condition the exercise of a civil right on the amount of money one has in the bank."

SAF, FLORIDA CARRY SUE TALLAHASSEE FOR PREEMPTION VIOLATION

The Second Amendment Foundation and Florida Carry, Inc., today joined forces in a lawsuit against the City of Tallahassee for refusing to change an ordinance restricting the discharge of firearms in defiance of the state preemption statute.

Named as defendants in the case, which was filed in the Second Judicial Circuit Court for Leon County, are Tallahassee Mayor John Marks, and City Commissioners Nancy Miller, Andrew Gillum and Gil Ziffer. SAF and Florida Carry are represented by Jacksonville attorneys Lesley McKinney with McKinney, Wilkes & Mee, and Eric J. Friday with Fletcher & Phillips.

"We're happy to partner with Florida Carry on this legal action," said SAF founder and Executive Vice President Alan Gottlieb. "This is not the first time we have had to take a city to court for

(Continues on page 6)

LEGAL BRIEFS

(Continues from pages 4-5)

violating a state preemption law. Why municipal governments still don't"

"We became aware of Tallahassee's illegal regulation as we looked to expand SAF's on-going preemption project, which has rolled back dozens of illegal gun regulations in the six states we have targeted so far," added SAF General Counsel Miko Tempksi.

"Since 2011, Florida Carry has prompted the repeal of anti-gun ordinances and regulations in over 200 Florida jurisdictions, including municipalities, counties, colleges and state agencies," noted Florida Carry Executive Director Sean Caranna. "Usually the jurisdiction is responsive to our notification that there is a problem and no lawsuit is necessary. When local officials violate the law in order to suppress the rights of law-abiding gun owners, they can expect that we're going to make them pay for it."

The lawsuit contends that under the city's ordinance, which criminalizes the discharge of firearms and airguns, there is no provision that carves out an exception for the lawful use of a firearm in self-defense. Gottlieb said there was a chance for an "easy fix" earlier this year, but that motion was tabled.

"Clearly," Gottlieb observed, "Tallahassee has way over-stepped its authority under state preemption. The Florida Legislature has exclusive domain over firearms regulation. When the law was passed, it nullified all existing, and future, city and county firearm ordinances and regulations.

"Mayor Marks and his colleagues on the city commission knew this," he added, "but they rejected an opportunity to bring the city into compliance. Their stubbornness left us no choice but to join Florida Carry in this action."

GEORGIA GOVERNOR SIGNS EXPANDED CARRY LAW

Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal recently signed legislation expanding where law-abiding citizens can carry firearms in the state, including some government buildings, and – by permission – schools and churches. The new law takes effect July 1.

Under the improved carry law, armed citizens can carry into bars without restrictions. Also, school districts could allow employees to carry "under certain conditions," and people might also carry in places of worship, so long as the church allows.

The bill-signing ceremony came just one week after anti-gun billionaire former Mayor Michael Bloomberg's

rocky launch of his \$50 million so-called "grassroots" gun control effort, "Everytown for Gun Safety."

According to published reports from the Washington Times and Associated Press, "a few hundred" gun rights supporters were present for Gov. Deal's bill signing ceremony. Anti-gunners from the Georgia Gun Sense Coalition held an event in downtown Atlanta to honor "gun victims."

While the local press has dubbed this the "Guns Everywhere" law, that is not entirely accurate, but it has allowed anti-gunners to create that impression. A look around the country reveals that millions of Americans are licensed to

carry into places in their states that Georgia's expanded law will now allow. In those states there are rarely any problems. Most of the time, if firearms are concealed properly, nobody is any the wiser.

SAF, as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, cannot lobby for bills and such changes through the legislative process. However, as the law goes into effect, SAF plans to include Georgia in its ongoing preemption enforcement project. Should local governments fail in their duty to enforce this law, or worse yet, violate it, SAF will be there to make sure Georgia citizens get the rights they are entitled to.

SAF CONGRATULATES ILLINOIS CCW PERMIT RECIPIENTS

In 2013, The Second Amendment Foundation's case, *Moore v. Madigan* was successful. This forced the Illinois Legislature to adopt a concealed carry law over the objections of anti-gun Gov. Pat Quinn and others including Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel.

Illinois became the 50th state to allow concealed carry. In January, Illinois State Police started providing applications to its residents for concealed handgun carry permits. As of mid-April 2014, the Illinois State Police's noted that nearly 30,000 licenses had already been issued. As the issuance of licenses has ramped up to full speed, nearly 1,000 licenses are being issued each business day. SAF fully expects that hundreds of thousands of Illinois residents will be licensed to carry firearms when SAF

returns to Chicago for the 2014 Gun Rights Policy Conference (GRPC) in September of this year.

"While politicians had to be dragged kicking and screaming into compliance with the Second Amendment," said SAF founder and Executive Vice President Alan Gottlieb, "the good citizens are rushing to enjoy their newly-restored firearms freedom." In just the first months under the new law, State officials said they received more than 60,000 permit applications. Fox News reported that concealed carry applications had outpaced the number of applications for Obamacare.

"We're proud that our case brought about this opportunity for Illinois citizens to join millions of other Americans in the fundamental exercise

of their right to keep and especially bear arms," Gottlieb continued. "If the Illinois experience has taught us anything, it is that the anti-gun politicians who opposed this new law are horribly out of touch with their constituents."

Gottlieb said SAF will be monitoring the progress of this new law, with an eye on the number of permit applications being opposed by law enforcement that wind up being reviewed.

"At the rate of applications so far," Gottlieb predicted, "we're expecting to see up to 300,000 to 400,000 citizens apply for permits this year. By the time that happens, we anticipate the law-abiding armed citizens of Illinois will prove that they are responsible and reliable with this most precious of civil rights."

SAF AWARDED BY OPEN GOVT GROUP FOR RECORDS LAWSUIT

The Second Amendment Foundation has been honored by the Washington Coalition for Open Government (WCOG) for its successful lawsuit against the City of Seattle over public records access.

WCOG President Toby Nixon visited the SAF offices in Bellevue to present the award to SAF founder and Executive Vice President Alan Gottlieb, SAF General Counsel Miko Tempiski, and SAF Special Projects Director Philip Watson.

In early 2013, Watson filed a request for information from the city about its 2013 gun buyback project.

When the documents were not forthcoming, Tempiski filed a lawsuit seeking production of e-mails and other documents related to the January buyback, which was conducted in a parking lot underneath I-5 in

downtown Seattle. The operation was something of an embarrassment that even Washington Ceasefire President Ralph Fascitelli had advised against, the recovered e-mails revealed.

Eventually, SAF's lawsuit forced the city to disclose the documents, apologize and promise to change its policies. In addition, the city had to pay SAF legal fees and penalties totaling \$38,000. It was the nearly unprecedented apology that caught the attention of the open-government watchdogs at WCOG.

"We are extremely proud of this award," Gottlieb observed, "because it was unanimously approved by a diverse WCOG board of directors. It is gratifying when people who may not agree with us politically recognize the importance of holding government responsible for transparency. The public has a right to

know how its money is spent and how its elected representatives and their staffs respond to people."

He said when government hides information from the public or is sloppy in providing information, citizens are the ultimate losers.

"The goal all along in our effort," Watson added, "was to find out about the process that went into this gun buyback. When it became obvious that the city, under former Mayor Mike McGinn, had not produced all the information we sought, there was only one course of action, and we took it."

"Government must be held accountable when it fails in its responsibility," Tempiski said. "If it takes a lawsuit to accomplish that, we are prepared. It should not have to come to that point."



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