

The Gottlieb-Tartaro Report

THE INSIDERS GUIDE FOR GUN OWNERS

Issue 259

July, 2016

Dear Subscriber,

PRESIDENT OBAMA called the shooting at Orlando's Pulse gay nightclub by Islamic jihadist **OMAR MIR SEDDIQUE MATEEN** "a further reminder of how easy it is for someone to get their hands on a weapon that lets them shoot people in a school, or a house of worship, or a movie theater, or a nightclub." **OBAMA** would not say Islamist despite **MATEEN**'s widely known pledge of allegiance to radical **ISIL** on a 911 call during his attack. **OBAMA** described the shooting as an attack on a place of solidarity and empowerment and reiterated a need for stricter gun laws, saying, "To actively do nothing is a decision as well," but didn't elaborate on the changes he would like to see.

A day later, **OBAMA** escalated his call that dangerous people not be allowed to obtain high-powered weapons, saying the country needs more "soul-searching" after **MATEEN** used legally purchased firearms to kill 49 people at the Pulse. **OBAMA** said the attack was an example of "home-grown extremism" that wasn't carried out at the specific direction of **ISIS**. While **OBAMA** vowed to go after extremist groups that have called for attacks on Americans, he also renewed his failed push for laws making it harder for criminals - and the law abiding - to obtain firearms.

Senate Democrats urged quick passage of legislation defeated last year to impose additional gun controls in the wake of the Pulse shooting. Four Democratic senators, led by **CHUCK SCHUMER** of New York, the No. 2 Senate Democrat, called for immediate passage of a bill preventing people on "terror watch lists" and other "suspected terrorists" from buying firearms or explosives. Joining **SCHUMER** are Senators **DIANNE FEINSTEIN** of California, **BILL NELSON** of Florida and **RICHARD BLUMENTHAL** of Connecticut.

District of Columbia Mayor **MURIEL E. BOWSER**, a Democrat, argued that Congress must "finally do something" about guns after the Pulse shootings. House Republicans said, okay: they introduced measures that would repeal existing gun-control laws in the District, among the country's most restrictive.

One measure, introduced by Rep. **THOMAS MASSIE (R-Ky.)**, the District would be prohibited from spending money to enforce laws dictating which residents and visitors can carry firearms. Another, authored by Rep. **DAVID SCHWEIKERT (R-Ariz.)**, would prevent D.C. from limiting concealed-carry permits to those with a "good reason" as decided by the whim of a D.C. bureaucrat.

Republican **SEN. SUSAN COLLINS** (Maine) and a bipartisan coalition announced a compromise proposal to bar some terror suspects from buying guns. Sponsors: Democratic **SENS. HEIDI HEITKAMP** (North Dakota), **MARTIN HEINRICH** (New Mexico) **TIM Kaine** (Virginia). Republican backers include **KELLY AYOTTE** (New Hampshire), **JEFF FLAKE** (Arizona) and **LINDSEY GRAHAM** (South Carolina). **ANGUS KING**, a Maine independent, is also co-sponsoring the bill. But the White House and Justice Department are holding off until they study it. And one leading Democrat, New York **SEN. CHARLES E. SCHUMER**, said there are several key flaws that would need to be fixed before the proposal moves forward. And the **NRA** said that it would oppose the measure, which could keep more Republicans from signing onto the bill.

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Also in this issue: ● Hawaii puts gun owners in FBI database ● Six years to get your seized guns back? ● Generals start veterans' gun control group, rebuffed by patriotic veterans ● Proven method to stop crime in our Page 8 Parting Shot.

**AT THE
FEDERAL
LEVEL**

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The Foundation for Accountability and Civic Trust filed an official complaint with the **Office of Congressional Ethics** over **emails sent by House Democrats during their gun control protest**. **FACT**, which bills itself as a non-partisan non-profit group, is run by a **MATTHEW WHITAKER**, a former U.S. Attorney. **WHITAKER** has also in the past filed complaints about **HILLARY CLINTON** and recently demanded that Harvard release papers concerning **Supreme Court nominee MERRICK GARLAND**. In the group's most recent filing, the group contends **several House members violated ethics rules during their 26-hour sit-in**. "There is broad agreement that **numerous rules were broken. One of the rules prohibits Members from soliciting campaign and political donations tied to acts taken in their official capacity**," reads a statement from the group. **WHITAKER** said, "It is outrageous that these Members expect the citizens to follow all the laws they pass, **but they can't even bother to follow their own ethics rules.**"

Thanks to **C-SPAN**, in the midst of all this focus on guns, **voters have video of the DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE** holding preparatory meetings for drafting the **PARTY PLATFORM** for the **NATIONAL CONVENTION** this July in Philadelphia. One segment discussed **gun control**, featuring **LUCIA MCBATH**, the mother of **JORDAN DAVIS**, who was killed in a dispute over the volume of his music, and national spokesperson for **Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America**, **BONNIE SCHAEFER**, a former CEO of the retail corporation **Claire's Stores** and an activist for women's rights, and **CORNEL WEST**, professor of philosophy currently at **Union Theological Seminary**. **It was pretense of respecting the Second Amendment but backing the usual Democrat list of laws that weaken it.**

Then came the obvious. **BLOOMBERG-funded Everytown for Gun Safety president JOHN FEINBLATT** said in a statement: "**Gun Sense Voters** have a champion in **HILLARY CLINTON**. Our litmus test is simple: does a candidate side with the public or with the gun lobby? **HILLARY CLINTON passes that test with flying colors -- pushing back against the NRA's extreme 'guns for everyone, everywhere' agenda, and ushering in a new political calculus that saving lives from gun violence is a winning issue.**" **Everytown for Gun Safety** was launched in 2014 with a \$50 million pledge from **former New York City Mayor MICHAEL BLOOMBERG**, an outspoken advocate of gun control laws.

The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence president DAN GROSS had to brag, too. He released a statement in which he boasted that **gun control is a central plank of HILLARY CLINTON's campaign**. **GROSS** pointed to the fact that **CLINTON** has been **consistently anti-gun** and lauded her as **the first candidate to win by running on a gun control platform**." He added: **HILLARY CLINTON** has been a great leader and fighter for **so many important movements and causes**, not the least of which is our shared mission to save lives by keeping guns out of dangerous hands through **expanded Brady background checks** and by stopping 'bad apple' gun dealers.

HILLARY CLINTON makes clear **she is diametrically opposed to the Founding Fathers' goal of protecting natural rights via the Bill of Rights**. Speaking to **ABC's GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS**, **CLINTON** suggested **all constitutional rights are open to government regulation**. She went so far as to say **government has a right to regulate constitutional rights**. Yet the biggest problem with **CLINTON's** push is **making the Second Amendment open to a majority vote**. The Founders provided a mechanism for **repealing the protections afforded by the Second Amendment** - and that mechanism is **the amending process**. But **CLINTON** cannot risk going that direction because **gun control actually has nowhere near the level of support she claims**. So the best option she has is to use the executive office to **sidestep Congress and the Constitution and abolish the Second Amendment via numerous, insidious controls**. *And that is her plan.*

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CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR BROWN SIGNS SIX GUN CONTROL BILLS, VETOES FIVE

California election officials have announced that an initiative by Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom to restrict firearms has enough signatures to qualify for the November state ballot, but the big news is in the California Legislature. It sent Gov. Jerry Brown 11 gun control bills. He signed six bills, but vetoed five others, including AB 2607 (expand gun violence restraining orders); SB 894 (limit gun purchases to one per month); AB 1673 (background check for "some assembly required" guns); SB 894 (failure to report lost or stolen guns); and AB 1176 (punishment for theft) which Brown said was "nearly identical" to an initiative already on the November ballot. Brown signed SB 1446 (Ban possession of high-capacity magazines); AB 1511 (gun lending to family only); AB 1695 (falsely reporting lost or stolen guns); SB 880/AB 1135 (Bullet button ban) and two others.

FLORIDA GOVERNOR SCOTT GIVES GUN CONTROL DEMOCRATS DOUBLE WHACK

IN THE STATES

Gov. Rick Scott said he will not call a special session to debate gun legislation in the wake of the Orlando nightclub shooting despite a loud cry from democrats for more gun control. Scott said on a visit where two dozen volunteers received his thanks for aiding the families of victims in the days after the Pulse nightclub shooting, "The Second Amendment has been around for over 200 years. The Second Amendment didn't kill anybody. Evil does. This is ISIS. It's radical Islam. National security is a legislative priority. Not guns, and we've got to find out how to come together as a community," He also made news for appointing Robert Dees to the 4th Judicial Circuit, choosing the Jacksonville attorney from a list of six nominees that included an anti-gun Rep. Charles McBurney, R-Jacksonville. McBurney had become the target of gun-rights groups.

HAWAII ENACTS FIRST STATE LAW IN U.S. TO PLACE GUN OWNERS IN DATABASE

Hawaii has enacted a series of gun laws, one of which Governor David Ige says makes it the first state to put firearm owners into a criminal watchlist. The database, the "Rap Back" system, is operated by the FBI and allows both the FBI and Hawaiian authorities to receive ongoing notifications of developments in the criminal records of individuals holding positions of public trust, such as pilots, teachers, as well as every gun owner in Hawaii. Rap Back notifies police when a gun owner is arrested for a crime anywhere in the United States. Another new Hawaii state law prohibits offenders who have stalked or committed sexual assault from owning guns. The third new law requires gun owners to surrender their firearms and ammunition to the police if they've been disqualified "due to significant behavioral, emotional, or mental disorder, or involuntary admission to a psychiatric facility."

MISSOURI GOVERNOR'S GUN BILL VETO SETS UP OVERRIDE SHOWDOWN

Gov. Jay Nixon and the Republican-dominated Missouri General Assembly are on an election-year collision course over the issue of guns. Nixon, a Democrat who is prohibited from seeking a third term as governor this fall because of term limits, vetoed wide-ranging gun bills that would eliminate the requirement to get a permit for concealed carry, establish a "stand your ground" law, eliminating a duty to retreat before using lethal force if they think their life is in danger. It would have expanded the castle doctrine to permit invited guests in a home to use deadly force on intruders. And for those who still want to get a concealed-carry permit, the bill would create a lifetime version that never expires. Lawmakers will return to the Missouri Capitol on Sept. 14 vowing to override Nixon's vetoes.

NEW JERSEY LAWMAKERS REPEAL GOVERNOR'S PROTECTIVE GUN ORDERS

In April, Governor Chris Christie gave orders including adding "serious threats" to the qualifying circumstances in the state's may-issue permitting scheme as well as expanding protections for those transporting firearms. The order was given in response to the death of Carol Bowne, 39, of Berlin, N.J. Bowne was killed in her front yard by her ex-boyfriend after she obtained a protective order and filed paperwork to obtain a firearms permit that was still not granted more than two months later. State Democrats muscled a repeal through the Assembly and the Senate. The well-protected Democrats were called hypocrites by gun rights advocates. Christie will not sign the Democrat repeal bills into law.

SUPREME COURT RULES DOMESTIC ABUSERS CAN LOSE GUN OWNERSHIP RIGHTS

Gun ownership rights can be denied to people who commit reckless acts of domestic abuse, the Supreme Court ruled in a decision that brought a blistering dissent from Justice Clarence Thomas. The 6-2 ruling, written by Justice Elena Kagan and endorsed by conservative as well as liberal justices, upheld the sentences imposed on two Maine men who had argued their misdemeanor convictions for domestic abuse should not trigger a federal gun control statute. Thomas and Justice Sonia Sotomayor dissented. Thomas, normally silent during oral argument, asked nine questions from the bench, his first in a decade. In his written dissent, he said, "We treat no other constitutional right so cavalierly. In construing the statute before us expansively so that causing a single minor reckless injury or offensive touching can lead someone to lose his right to bear arms forever, the court continues to relegate the Second Amendment to a second-class right."

SUPREME COURT TURNS DOWN ASSAULT WEAPONS CASES

The Supreme Court refused to hear a challenge to assault weapons bans passed in Connecticut and New York. The challenges were denied, as expected, without comment from the court. The justices had refused to hear a challenge to a Chicago suburb's ban on such semi-automatic weapons. The Connecticut law was signed by Gov. Dannel Malloy in 2013. Expanding on an earlier assault weapons ban in the state, it banned more than 100 types of firearms along with magazines that can hold more than 10 rounds of ammunition. Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed a similar ban in New York that created a registry of existing assault weapons in the state, banned their future sale, and blocked the sale of high-capacity magazines. Assault weapons bans are in place in five other states: California, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Maryland and Hawaii. The federal government had such a ban for 10 years, but it expired in 2004. Since its landmark 2008 decision upholding the right to possess guns at home for self defense, the Supreme Court also has refused to strike down lesser restrictions. Those include bans on carrying guns in public and restricting interstate gun transfers.

**IN THE
COURTS**

APPEALS COURT RULES NO CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO CARRY CONCEALED GUNS

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals concluded that the Constitution does not grant citizens the right to carry concealed firearms outside the home. The decision, *Peruta v. San Diego*, is likely to be the last word on this litigation: It was issued en banc, meaning the plaintiffs' only remaining hope is an appeal to the Supreme Court. Even if the justices did take the case, it's difficult to see how they could justify reversing the appeals court's ruling: The majority's 41-page decision lays out a comprehensive analysis. The 9th Circuit case centered on a challenge to California's "good cause" law. Under the statute, members of the public may not publicly carry a concealed firearm unless they show "good cause." County sheriffs are empowered to define "good cause," and the sheriffs of two counties require a particularized reason why the applicant needs to publicly carry a firearm for self-defense. The plaintiffs challenged that "good cause" law, alleging that it violated their right to bear arms under the Second and Fourteenth amendments of the United States Constitution. An appeal to the Supreme Court is possible but not yet planned.

BIG WIN HANDED DOWN IN NEW HAMPSHIRE CARRY RIGHTS CASE

The New Hampshire Supreme Court unanimously agreed with a gun rights advocate that recent rule changes affecting nonresident concealed carry permit holders went too far. Scott Bach is the executive director of the Association of New Jersey Rifle and Pistol Clubs (ANJRPC), and, due to restrictive may-issue practices in his home state, from 2004 to 2013, held a New Hampshire nonresident license to carry a concealed handgun. Bach could no longer renew his permit in New Hampshire because the state Department of Safety changed the rules for non-residents to require that applicants first have a valid carry permit in their home state. Bach and ANJRPC filed a claim against the Department that was rejected by a lower court. Not deterred, Bach and ANJRPC argued the case to the New Hampshire Supreme Court, which took his side in the argument, saying the licensing authority overstepped its bounds and implemented a regulation that is not protected under state law.

GUN RIGHTS GROUP GAINS ACCESS TO CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY VIDEOS

A federal judge allowed gun groups to use video footage from the state Assembly in their campaign against Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom's gun control initiative, barring enforcement of a state law that makes it a crime to use Assembly videos for political or commercial purposes. U.S. District Judge Morrison England said that he would issue a preliminary injunction forbidding enforcement of the law against the Firearms Policy Coalition and affiliated groups. Legislative proceedings in California have been broadcast since 1991 on public-access television networks. Newsom has a gun control initiative on the November ballot, and gun groups said they planned to use video footage from legislative sessions in their campaign against the measure before learning of the state law. The law is "a content-based restriction that criminalizes core political speech," Bradley Benbrook, a lawyer for the gun advocates, said in a court filing. "The people's right to know what its government is doing is essential to our system of democratic self-government."

IN THE COURTS

FIRST CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS UPHOLDS RESTRICTIONS

A retired Supreme Court justice weighed in on the issue of gun control, upholding a district court ban on the sale of any firearm without a device clearly indicating the gun is loaded. Sitting by designation on a three-judge panel of the First Circuit, former Supreme Court Justice David Souter presided over an appeal where consumers said Massachusetts trampled their Second Amendment rights with a law mandating that all guns have either a load indicator or a safety that would disengage their magazines. The panel also affirmed the district court's finding that the gun rights advocacy group lacked standing to sue, holding that the Second Amendment Foundation would have needed to prove that one of its members was injured as a result of the gun law in order to assert a legal claim. Because the foundation did not prove any of its members were denied the right to buy or sell a gun as a result of the regulation, their case did not merit any further review, or even formal discovery of its claims, Souter said.

SIX YEAR WAIT FOR RECOVERY OF SEIZED GUNS RULED UNCONSTITUTIONAL

A federal judge has ruled that a North Smithfield, Rhode Island man's due process rights were violated when the North Smithfield Police Department refused for over six years to return lawfully possessed weapons that officers had seized from him, and instead demanded that he obtain a state court order if he wanted to get his guns back. In ruling on a suit filed by ACLU of R.I. volunteer attorneys Thomas W. Lyons and Rhiannon Huffman on behalf of Jason Richer, U.S. District Judge John McConnell, Jr. agreed with the ACLU that the Town had a constitutional obligation to provide an administrative process that Richer could use to get his weapons returned, rather than force him to file a state lawsuit. Noting the expense and effort involved in having to file a lawsuit to get one's property returned, the court held that "access to a state court action . . . is insufficient to ensure Mr. Richer an adequate opportunity to challenge the Town's confiscation and retention of his property" and that "some post-deprivation procedures . . . are necessary to meet the standards of due process." The ruling is important not just for Richer, but because other police departments in the state have similar policies in place. Richer has his guns back now.

CITY OF TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA SUED FOR VIOLATING STATE GUN LAW

Florida Carry and the Second Amendment Foundation sued the city of Tallahassee, Mayor A. Gillum, city commissioners Gil Ziffer and Nancy Miller and then-Mayor John Marks in 2014. The groups assert the City Commission violated a state law when it refused to repeal decades-old city codes that regulate firearms. The commission voted to table their decision to remove the code, but never took it up again. The old city code states it's illegal to discharge a firearm on a lot smaller than five acres or on a city-owned park or facility. That provision, the plaintiffs say, violates state statutes that say only the state can regulate firearms. They asked that fines and penalties be assessed against the commissioners, Mayor Gillum, Marks and the city. The city filed a cross-claim saying the penalty provision of the state law was unconstitutional. More than a dozen Florida cities, advocacy groups and elected officials are backing the city of Tallahassee in its defense.

GUN NEWS TICKER - QUICK TAKES ON THE NEWS

● **New York City:** HBO's "Real Time" host Bill Maher went off on liberals who talk about guns when they "don't know sh*t about guns." He said it's like "when the Pope talks about vaginas." Conservatives have taken serious issue with how the gun debate is being framed in the media, especially by people who know nothing about guns and are distorting facts. Maher pushed back against some of those distorted facts and said that there are plenty of guns just as deadly as the AR-15 that no one is talking about banning. The Daily Beast's Betsy Woodruff pointed out that AR-15s are used to commit just a "teensy tiny fraction" of mass shootings. Maher even went so far as to say "this is a little bit elitist and a little bit racist," given the focus on "when shootings happen to white people in nice places."

● **Henderson County, North Carolina:** Kelly McGillis said she plans to apply for a concealed carry gun permit after she was assaulted by an intruder in her North Carolina home. The actress, who is best known for playing Charlotte "Charlie" Blackwood in "Top Gun," recalled the scary incident in a recent Facebook post. A stranger, a woman, came barreling down the hallway and began yelling at me. The intruder ran after her and "began punching and scratching." McGillis ran to her truck and drove off. She eventually flagged down another driver who called 911 for her. The intruder, 38-year-old Laurence Marie Dorn, was arrested by the Henderson County police and charged with second-degree burglary, misdemeanor larceny, misdemeanor stalking, assault and battery and interfering with emergency communication. She is being held on \$60,000 bond, according to her arrest report. McGillis said, "I have decided to get a conceal and carry permit."

● **New York City:** An MSNBC online poll asking if "people should be allowed to carry guns in public" found that 449K respondents said "yes," with only 19K respondents saying "no." The poll is non-scientific, but it was open to the public and it appears the public responded. Those taking the poll read one question, "Do you believe people should be allowed to carry guns in public?" They then chose from three possible answers: 1. Yes! The Second Amendment guarantees it. 2. No, it's too dangerous. 3. Only for self-defense. The results as of June 28: 449K said "Yes! The Second Amendment guarantees it," 19K said "No, it's too dangerous," and 18K said, "Only for self-defense."

● **Chicago, Illinois:** The Chicago Sun-Times' columnist Neil Steinberg is crying foul after a gun store rejected his application to purchase a firearm following a background check that uncovered his "admitted history of alcohol abuse, and a charge for domestic battery involving his wife." He wrote in his column following his failed attempt to purchase a rifle, "Would-be terrorists can buy guns. Insane people can buy guns. But reporters, that's a different story." Maxon Shooter's Supplies in Des Plaines, Ill., said Steinberg's application was rejected not because he's in media, but for the simple reason that a background check raised several red flags.

● **Chicago, Illinois:** The American Medical Association (AMA) has voted for the first time to declare gun violence a "public health crisis" and to "actively lobby" to allow federal research on guns. The AMA said the growing number of gun-related deaths in the U.S. requires a "comprehensive public health response and solution." The AMA will push to allow federally funded research to study gun violence like any other public health issue. The AMA claims the law "has had a chilling effect on nearly all federally funded gun research." Actually, the law does not outlaw real research. Specifically, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is only banned from using federal funding "to advocate or promote gun control." The AMA wants taxpayer money so doctors can spend it lobbying for gun control.

● **Austin, Texas:** Texas has just topped one million concealed carry permit holders - 1,017,618 to be exact. Not surprisingly, the number one reason people in the Lone Star State and across the country are pursuing concealed carry permits is for self-defense purposes. Florida is still the reigning champion for the most concealed carry holders in any state with over 1.3 million. Texas has been a concealed carry state since the 1990s. It wasn't until 2015 open carry of handguns became legal.

GUN NEWS TICKER - QUICK TAKES ON THE NEWS

● **Washington, D.C.:** Americans for Responsible Solutions, the gun control group of former Rep. Gabby Giffords (D-Ariz.) and former astronaut husband Mark Kelly, is forming a new gun control group for veterans with Gen. David Petraeus, called The Veterans Coalition for Common Sense. It will "push to strengthen gun background check laws and help prevent veterans from committing suicide" - about 22 veterans kill themselves each day. In addition to Petraeus, the former CIA director, and Kelly, a number of other generals and admirals will join the group, including another former CIA director, Michael Hayden, and retired Adm. Thad Allen.

● **Fort Bragg, North Carolina:** The Special Forces Association forcefully rebuked calls for more gun control from both former CIA director and CENTCOM commander David Petraeus and retired Army general Stanley McChrystal. SFA is a 52 year old national organization composed of members who once served in the U.S. Special Forces. The organization drew up a membership resolution at their annual convention in Jacksonville, Florida, confirming prior statements of continued support of the U.S. "Constitution and all of its amendments, realizing that only the existence of the Second Amendment guarantees the freedom of the American people and that the Bill of Rights was written to delineate and restrict the power of government and not to restrict the powers and rights of the people or states."

● **U.S. and Canada:** A nationwide gun club geared towards the LGBT community has reportedly seen its membership more than double following the mass shooting at a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida. Pink Pistols, a 16-year-old organization that boasts dozens of chapters nationwide, saw an exponential increase that occurred in the immediate aftermath of the "Sunday morning massacre" that left 49 patrons of Pulse nightclub dead and dozens more injured - Pink Pistols went from having about 1,500 members on the Saturday before to 3,500 on the Monday following. On its website, the group says it's "dedicated to the legal, safe and responsible use of firearms for self-defense of the sexual-minority community," and currently boasts 45 branches in 21 states. "I look at it as a disenfranchised minority that needs someone who's willing to say I'm a resource who's here and willing to help," said Mike Smith, a heterosexual firearms instructor who felt compelled to help the LGBT community in the wake of the tragedy.

● **Clarksburg, West Virginia:** NICS Center: The latest report from the FBI on the NICS background checks shows 1,870,000 Americans applying for permission to purchase a firearm. It illustrates the direct correlation between political pressure on the Second Amendment and the natural, predictable result: Americans are arming themselves for whatever comes. A number of comparisons are useful. May is the first month since last October that the number of background checks fell below two million, but it was nearly 300,000 more than May a year ago. Year-to-date more than 11.7 million Americans have gone through a background check to purchase at least one firearm, compared to less than nine million through May 2015. That's an increase of 2,760,000.

● **Augusta, Maine:** Maine Ethics Commission filings show Michael Bloomberg-funded Everytown for Gun Safety has given more than \$3.5 million to the state's gun control lobby since 2015. The goal of the money is to secure California-style gun control in the state via the implementation of universal background checks. California has universal background checks, yet that state has also witnessed the UCLA shooting, the San Bernardino attack (December 2015), the Santa Barbara shooting (May 2014), and a nation-leading property crime surge in San Francisco. The June 1 murder-suicide on the gun-free UCLA campus was yet another proof that universal background checks do not stop a determined attacker.

● **Washington, D.C.:** A member of the Democratic National Committee's 15-person platform drafting committee said during a public meeting that she does not believe that "anyone should have a gun." Bonnie Schaefer, a former retail executive and a progressive philanthropist, said that more should be done to combat gun violence in addition to "just keeping the guns out of the hands of mentally ill people and criminals. I really don't personally think anyone should have a gun," she said.

Parting Shot

PROVEN METHOD TO STOP CRIME: SHOOT BACK

A man with a concealed carry license stopped a shooter who opened fire on a crowd of people at a nightclub in South Carolina on a recent early Sunday morning. After getting into a fight with another person, the 32-year-old suspect pulled out a gun and began to fire at a crowd gathered outside of the club, hitting and injuring four. One of the victims, who holds a concealed-carry permit, shot back in self-defense, hitting the suspect in the leg. The suspect has been charged with four counts of attempted murder. He was also charged for unlawfully carrying a weapon and for carrying one while committing a violent crime. The concealed carrier who shot back won't be facing any charges, as his permit to carry was valid.

A man in his 30s walked into the Parkside Pub in Queens, New York, on 149th Street near Willets Point Road with a gun and started taking money from the register. Investigators say when he tried to take money from patrons one of them, a retired NYPD officer, pulled out his own gun and shot the robber in the face and killed him. One local resident said he approved of what the elderly retiree did. "I'm sorry but the guy shouldn't have been robbing the store. The cop shot the guy trying to rob the store. Well, unfortunately that's what it came to," he said. Sources say the former officer retired from the force 40 years ago and is still a good shot. Police have not released the names of anyone involved and no charges have been filed.

When 33-year-old Tara-Alexis Ford returned to her Portland, Ore., home with her two children over a recent weekend, she found a stranger in her 10-year-old daughter's bedroom. Ford was armed, and fatally shot the suspected intruder. The suspect was identified as "59-year-old David Daniel McCrary of Gresham, Oregon, who has no connection to McCrary and is not from the neighborhood," police said. "McCrary has no significant criminal history but there was a recent report indicating that he may have been struggling with mental health issues." Ford has cooperated with detectives and was not arrested.

About 10:50 p.m. on a recent night, 17-year-old Isaac Garcia of Fresno, California and his accomplice opened the door to the Jiffy Food Stop store on Elm Avenue and pointed guns at the store clerk, who was behind the counter just inside the door. There were customers inside the store. The clerk drew a gun, and one of the robbers fired a shot, missing the clerk. From behind the counter, the clerk returned fire and the robbers fled. No one inside the store was hurt. Deputies found Garcia dead outside the store with a gun near his body.

Alan M. Gottlieb

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