



NATIONAL SHOOTING SPORTS FOUNDATION, INC.

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Letters to the Editor
HUDSON REPORTER ASSOC. L.P.
The Jersey City Reporter
1400 Washington St.
PO BOX 3069
Hoboken, NJ 07030

To the Editor:

A New Jersey appellate court was correct in striking down Mayor Jerramiah Healy's "one handgun a month" ordinance for Jersey City ("Healy still sticking to his gun ... legislation," October 6, 2008). Limiting the sale of firearms to law-abiding New Jerseyans in the name of curbing violent crime is ill-conceived and, following the recent Supreme Court decision in Washington, D.C. v. Heller, it is tantamount to rationing a civil right on par with Freedom of Religion and Freedom of the Press.

In New Jersey, local law enforcement officials know in advance of all handgun sales because state law mandates the buyer first obtain a permit from their police chief. The New Jersey state police screen the buyer and pre-approve every sale. Additionally, federal law requires firearm retailers to report all multiple sales of handguns (including more than one to the same person in a five-day period) to both federal law enforcement and the local police chief by close of that business day.

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the significant drop in crime during the mid-1990's coincided with more guns being in private possession and more restrictive guns laws being taken off the books. In South Carolina, one-gun-a-month was repealed (allowing for more guns in the hands of law-abiding citizens) and, like the rest of the U.S., South Carolinians experienced a decrease in violent crime. Furthermore, a recent study by the Center for Disease Control looked at the full panoply of gun control measures and concluded that none could be proven to reduce crime.

As Mayor Healey takes his case to the state legislature, representatives would be wise to follow both constitutional law and common sense.

Sincerely yours,

Lawrence G. Keane

The National Shooting Sports Foundation is the trade association of the firearms industry.