



## **Allegheny County Sportsmen's League Inc.**

Organized in 1921 Incorporated in 1933

*Fighting for Liberty, Conservation, Wildlife, and our Natural Resources Since 1921*

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I am writing in regards to a recent LPN article by Jeff Hawks titled "[Gun rights group threatens legal action if Manheim Township band gun shops near schools](#)". In this article I read comments by Commissioner Sam Mecum that I find quite troubling.

The Commissioner's statements reinforce the systemic problem that is rampant across our Commonwealth and across our nation where the "Elected Class" act as if they are above the law and they are somehow immune to consequence when they are called out about their abuse of the rights of law-abiding Pennsylvanians. Let's be clear, the proposed ordinances are criminal violations of Pennsylvania's Crimes Code, Title 18, Section 6120, in addition to violating Article 1, Section 21 of the Pennsylvania Constitution.

The LPN article states: *Commissioner Sam Mecum in an email to LNP called it "outrageous" that Prince would threaten private criminal charges against the commissioners "for simply doing our jobs." He added that the threat is "itself, in my opinion, a possible criminal act of threatening a public official."*

I am unaware of any job description of an elected official that includes violating State Preemption laws. Elected officials have a duty to uphold the law of the land and many swear an oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of Pennsylvania respectively.

The question that hasn't been asked is 'where' is the Lancaster District Attorney and why has the DA ignored these clear violations of the Crimes Code? On August 28, 2017, District Attorney Stedman, issued a letter declaring that "the Pennsylvania Supreme Court has clearly denied all municipalities the power to regulate firearms and the Uniform Firearms Act prohibits a township from regulation concerning the ownership, possession, transfer or transportation of firearms or ammunition 'in any manner.'" I am optimistic that the DA is currently preparing a letter advising Manheim Township Leadership as to their potential criminal activity.

Preemption Laws essentially state that local governments have 'no' authority to enact laws or ordinances that supersede Pennsylvania State-wide laws. Unfortunately, many localities have recently passed illegal laws in regards to firearms that only impact the law-abiding citizens who freely exercise their Constitutional rights; thereby, resulting in official oppression of those citizens by the municipality. By passing laws that restrict the rights of law-abiding Pennsylvanians, these elected officials empower the criminal elements of society by disarming the citizenry and creating "Gun Free Zones" that give criminal predators easy targets to prey upon.

The proposed "school zone" would not only violate State Preemption laws, but this zone would also potentially limit the types of legal businesses that could grow the economy of Manheim Township

and would also tragically violate the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment by prohibiting signage that depicts a constitutionally guaranteed item.

This type of demonization and demagoguery has nothing to do with promoting a “safe and effective learning environment in our schools”, as Joshua Cohen, the attorney representing Lancaster Country Day School stated. It is proof of an agenda that is designed to assault the rights and liberties of law abiding gun owners and business owners. This fact is self evident as that these measures are still being pursued even though the “Gun Gallery” Store is no longer in business and no longer at the address within the proposed “school zone”.

When elected officials disregard Pennsylvania criminal law and violate the constitutional rights and liberties of law-abiding Pennsylvanians, not only do they victimize the citizens that these local ordinances target, but they also waste public funds and tax dollars when these “servants of the people” fight and lose when challenged in the courts. Elected officials who knowingly and willingly violate the law and purposefully waste tax dollars by defending their own illegal actions by rights ought to and should be held accountable.

I believe that these kinds of local abuses of power would be deterred if legislation such as [HB1066](#) were passed.

Lastly, I find it interesting that Commissioner Mecum embraces victimhood by claiming that Attorney Joshua Prince and Firearms Owners Against Crime are “threatening him” by simply educating Manheim City leaders on the legality, or in this case the illegality, of what they are proposing.

It is thanks to organizations like Firearms Owners Against Crime that local elected officials across the Commonwealth are held in check.

I pray that the Commissioners of Manheim Township will do the right thing and recognize that in a Constitutional Republic, the solutions to all problems are found in the exercise of our guaranteed rights and liberties. I offer this advice: empower the law-abiding citizens... not the criminals.

Yours Most Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Klint Macro', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Klint Macro  
President of The Allegheny County Sportsmen’s League