

Allegheny County Sportsmen's League Inc.

Organized in 1921 Incorporated in 1933 Fighting for Liberty, Conservation, Wildlife, and our Natural Resources Since 1921 P.O. Box 205, Presto, PA 15142 www.acslpa.org

NEWS RELEASE

Klint Macro President of the Allegheny County Sportsmen's League kmacro@acslpa.org

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Allegheny County Sportsmen's League find the proposed ordinance, <u>Bill No. 11516-20</u> by Allegheny County Councilwoman Hallam, to be of grave concern as it would certainly be yet another attempt by local politicians to restrict the Rights and Liberties of the citizens of Allegheny County, and that of any citizen who visits Allegheny County.

This ordinance surely infringes upon the ability of citizens to defend themselves and those whom they love. Furthermore, this proposed ordinance would violate the 2nd Amendment of the US Constitution, Article 1 Section 21 of the PA Constitution and Pennsylvania Title 18 Section 6120.

As this legislation is clearly a political statement directed toward mainly law enforcement officers, I would like to point out that law enforcement officers are first and foremost "citizens".

County government has no authority to limit, restrict or ban any "bearable arm" that might be used by any citizen for defense against an attacker.

Less than lethal options such as sprays, bean bag rounds, rubber projectiles, are used by LE personnel as a force multiplier to helps protect the individual officer when they are overwhelmed by riotous mobs. These devices have the benefit of promoting compliance without the probability of lethal consequence, ensuring the general safety of the community.

This ordinance also impacts every citizen of Allegheny County who takes on the responsibility of protecting themselves, but chooses not to use lethal force. For example, Mace, OC, Pepper spray, and other such tools of defense will be impacted by this ordinance, further opening law abiding Citizens to the whims of criminals who seek to prey upon them.

Who exactly is Councilwoman Hallam protecting by proposing this legislation?

Perhaps rather than pass illegal ordinances that seek to restrict or infringe upon the

Liberties of law-abiding citizens, County Officials might consider educating, and empowering those that they represent to freely exercise their individual Rights.

The 2nd Amendment of the <u>U.S. Constitution</u> clearly states:

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

On March 21st, 2016, The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in <u>'Jamie Caetano v. Massachusetts'</u> that

"the Second Amendment extends, prima facie, to all instruments that constitute bearable arms, even those that were not in existence at the time of the founding,"

Pennsylvania Title 18 section 6120 (a) states:

"No county, municipality or township may in any manner regulate the lawful ownership, possession, transfer or transportation of firearms, ammunition or ammunition components when carried or transported for purposes not prohibited by the laws of this Commonwealth."

Article I, Section 21 of the <u>Pennsylvania State Constitution</u> states:

"The right of the citizens to bear arms in defense of themselves and the State shall not be questioned."

The Allegheny County Sportsmen's League will be watching this legislation closely as it will certainly negatively effect the safety and welfare of law abiding Pennsylvanians, and American Citizens; many of which are members of the Allegheny Count y Sportsmen's League.

Yours Respectfully,

Klint Macro President of The Allegheny County Sportsmen's League