



TOWN OF NEWTOWN

Ryan Knapp - Chair
Chris Smith - Vice Chair
Judit Destafano
Chris Eide
Jordana Bloom
Cathy Reiss

Minutes of Legislative Ordinance Committee Meeting

The Ordinance Committee met on Tuesday October 26, 2021 in the Gymnasium of the Edmond Town Hall. Mr. Smith called the meeting to order at 7:38PM.

Present: Ms. Bloom, Ms. Reiss, Mr. Eide, Mr. Smith, Mr. Lundquist and approximately 70 members of the public.

Absent: Ms. Destafano, Mr. Knapp

Minutes:

Ms. Bloom moved to approve the minutes of June 21, 2021, Cathy seconded. All in favor. (3-0). Chris Eide abstained.

Public Comment:

Don Lococo, 27 Hi Barlow Road - Discussed length of time it has taken to address this issue and wants the Legislative Council to step up and pass this ordinance. Voiced his frustration.

Madeline Richard – 22 Narrangansett Trail, read a statement from Po Murray that couldn't attend. She mentioned the fact that the original request went back as far as November 2, 2017. Feels majority of people in Newtown will support this ban.

Nia Meane – Did not catch address: Says we need to ban open carry.

Jake Schuman – 23, Great Hill Road, says they want the Legislative Council to do more. Says the large majority of students support this ordinance to ban open carry. Says there needs to be limits on when and where you can carry. Says police are challenged to determine “who is the good guy” versus “who is the bad guy”. Says open carry only serve to intimidate people, particularly at or during protests.

Maggie Labanca - 33 Paugusset Road, says she wants a change and shared her own experience during the Sandy Hook shooting and how that still affects her today. Particularly with school locked down drills.

Says many throughout the school still feels these emotions and Newtown is different. Says open carry makes no sense and doesn't make Newtown citizens safer. She says Newtown deserves to feel safe.

Andrew Buzzi – 38 Obtuse Road, said he was glad of large participation, says state law overrides municipal law. Says purchase, sale and possession and manner of carry is a matter of state law. Every municipality has failed when trying to subvert state law and says that this ordinance would be subverting authority.

Gary Liljengren - 15 Split Rock Road, says we are not doing our job if we act to ban open carry. 2nd Amendment is very clear. Compares firearms to Gun violence and says we don't have injuries from guns. Looked at last 5 years with vehicle accidents and said there are no gun injuries. Also mentioned injuries from sports activities yet nothing from guns. Compared Open carry of police and how that doesn't cause trauma. Compare his fear of people with tattoos to this ordinance.

Betsy Lidd - 86 Great Hill Road, says that the town of Woodbridge prohibits open carry. Also highlighted that she has witnessed open carry at Fairfield Hills and says there was not threat to their safety. She says the only threat was from the firearm and said firearms are different from tattoos.

Mary Ann Jacobs – 65 Mohawk Trail, discussed how she was the principle author of the current gun ordinance and commented on how police have to manage open carry with articulable suspicion. She says most gun owners in general have a high respect for law and safety to own a gun and would feel most gun owners would not consider open carry as it has many inherent risks not the least of which is the impression of danger. She hopes that this council would take up the recommendation to push this to the next council and this ordinance will give police another tool in their toolbox to manage the safety of citizens of Newtown.

Chris Paradis – 85 Riverside Road – feels it is unnecessary to have open carry and says we have a right to feel safe. Says it is intimidating to others that may voice their first amendment rights or even the right to feel safe on our town property.

Elise Beazley – 22 School House Hill Road. Moved to Newtown after Sandy Hook and doesn't understand why open carry is needed. Her husband was a rescue swimmer and weapons instructor for the Navy until retired. She says he couldn't be at the meeting but he also doesn't understand why someone needs to open carry. She supports gun ownership but does not feel a person should use open carry and that a person open carrying can create a challenging situation. She says we need more regulation on this issue.

Robin Lynch - 32 Main Street - She says she doesn't want to take away guns and cited CT law "CT general statute says a permit to carry a handgun does not authorize a person to carry a handgun on a premises where the possession or carry of a handgun is prohibited by the person or persons who owns or controls the premises, like Airports, Schools, Hospitals and Legislative Buildings. Why should Newtown Town property be any different?

Keith Alexander- 8 Palm Wood Road, is glad it is in committee and is in favor of disallowing open carry in particular. Feels that we all need safety on town property and needs to be back in committee with the new council.

Ken Lockwood - 7 Valley Hill North, said he moved here with his family in 2009. Feels we have a safe town and the Sandy Hook shooting didn't change his mind on ordinances. He feel sad for those that are afraid of seeing a gun. He doesn't want to see rights taken away because there are afraid. Says the need to understand the other side more. He feels we should leave things as is.

Old Business:

Consideration of an ordinance prohibiting the open carry of firearms on town property:

Mr. Smith - opened up the discussion and confirmed the individual meeting that he had with Chief of Police James Viadero and also the separate meeting that Cathy Reiss and Jordana Bloom had with him. To avoid having misquotes of those individual meetings, Chief Viadero was asked by the committee to address any open question the committee still had and was present for this meeting.

Mr. Smith - started out by asking for the Chief to discuss the current process for handling situations regarding open carry. Since there are issues with those folks that will feel threatened by simply seeing an open carry of a gun where others will not be concerned.

He mentioned how the statute (paraphrasing) addresses situation where a person is placed in fear of imminent injury. He mentioned several obvious examples like pointing a firearm at someone, or verbally threatening a person. But other situations are different and can be challenging for the police officer since they have to deal with the facts of the situation and not perceptions and be on factual probable cause.

Ms. Bloom - asked about the training of police officers compared to the general public. He stated that police officers are obviously highly trained but that he was not in a position to comment on individual citizen training, that even some military individuals will have more training than police officers.

Ms. Bloom - also asked that some people bring up the fact that the police have open carry but that a person's view of the police is different if much different from the regular public. That a stranger with open carry could be very intimidating

Ms. Reiss - asked a follow up about a citizens training that is needed for any permit to carry. The Chief stated all of the training and fingerprinting requirements and background checks that are needed along with the need to renew that every 5 years.

Mr. Eide - asked about the definition of threat. Was it what the person did, or the perception of the person. "Intentionally places or attempts to place a person in fear of imminent danger." He confirmed he was paraphrasing. Mr. Eide followed that up with the question about how that could be challenging for police, and used the example a person that walks up to a protester with an AR-15 strapped to their back. The Chief confirmed its still facts and circumstances known to us at the time. From a legal standard they have to make the determination on probable cause. Mr. Eide says that based on that language, he thinks citizens have no recourse if they feel their first amendment rights are threatened or experience the trauma of a gun. That the police are not really given the tools to manage that situation where a person carrying a gun is using that to intimidate another person. Mr. Eide feels that this ordinance will help to police manage that situation. The Chief would not comment one way or the other.

Ms. Reiss – Feels we need to identify what the issue is in town. Cathy asked if we have an open carry issue in town. The Chief did comment on some of the protests and said he can only go by incidents that have been reported. He commented on two incidents that have occurred since 2016. One was at Starbucks and another was at Caraluzzis. Since both were private property, they had the ability to inhibit open carry. Ms. Reiss said this ordinance would not apply to those two incidents. He confirmed that was the case. Ms. Reiss asked if other police officers that may be driving around have reported anything. The Chief confirmed they would not report on people just open carrying. He reaffirmed that

they can only look at articulable reasonable suspicion of imminent harm or committing a crime. He also confirmed that a statute was passed two years ago that allows police to ask for permits from gun owners.

Ms. Bloom – Asked the Chief if there was an incident on public property, and this ban was in place, would this change the way the police would handle that situation? He confirmed that it would be a case by case basis. He used the example of people hunting on private property and then stepping onto private property. He said in that instance he gave verbal advice to those individuals involved and the situation was remedied. He said it would be similarly used on town property but still be a case by case basis.

Mr. Lundquist – Asked if the police received a call of someone open carrying on Fairfield hills what would be the reaction? Chief said an officer would be dispatched, and said if there was an ordinance in place they would work within that ordinance and often will simply work to manage that particular question.

Mr. Smith - asked for clarification. If there was an ordinance in place, for example we have an ordinance right now in the Charter 128-5 (h) that states “Discharging a firearm on or into property owned by the Town of Newtown is prohibited”, to simply “Exposing or Discharging a firearm on or into property owned by the Town of Newtown is prohibited” how would that changing the actual policing of a situation where a person was exposing a gun on town property? The Chief said that the police would be able to levy a fine of up to \$99 based on the current town ordinance. He says they would be in a position to speak with that person, remedy the situation, possibly issue a verbal warning, or issue a fine. The fine would include a surcharge. The individual could choose to pay the fine or contest it and appear in court. It would be up to the discretion of the officer. He says other than a felony, police officers are given a wide range of discretion on how best to handle a situation.

Ms. Reiss – Asked If fines would automatically trigger state statute 29—28 (3) and create a felony of anyone that is given a fine. The Chief said that would be up to the lawyers and can’t comment on the potential of conflicting laws. Cathy asked if there were anyone present that could answer that issue. Mr. Smith - stated that would have to be something that could be addressed in later meetings, not for the meeting tonight.

Mr. Smith - asked about the ability to understand what is Town Property – The Chief said that would have to involve posting but also understand there are fine lines where discretion will have to come into play.

Ms. Bloom – Feels since we don’t have an ordinance addressing open carry that this ordinance could help the police to manage situations where articulable threat is challenged. The Chief says they have to respond to every report and take appropriate action based on the circumstances.

Ms. Reiss – For clarity, she asked what brandishing means. The Chief said it is open to interpretation. He also said it depends on the situation and could involve other statutes like reckless endangerment. He says there is no specific laws on brandishing.

No more questions for the Chief.

Mr. Smith asked for questions or comments from the committee.

Ms. Reiss - confirmed that Land Use Agency learned that we own 2900 – 3000 acres. Approximately 350 different parcels including space where the town may have taken over houses that are delinquent.

Mr. Eide asked if that statistic was being brought up because she thinks it would be difficult to police? Ms. Reiss did confirm that sidewalks are not town owned and signage would be needed and the placing could be challenging. Ms. Bloom said enforcement would be reasonable and discretion would be able to be used. Ms. Reiss said the ordinance would have to be clarified. Mr. Eide said maybe the next council can clarify and even confirm that houses that have been taken over the town, for instance, would not be included. Mr. Smith also re-affirmed that police discretion will obviously be present.

Mr. Smith - made a comment that we have two sides to the situation both relating to feelings. One side says they feel safe carrying a gun, the other side says they don't feel safe when they see someone carrying a gun. This ordinance will help satisfy both constituencies. The folks that feel the need to carry, can still carry, but just conceal the gun. The folks that feel un-safe with a gun exposed can have a simple avenue of complaint to the police.

Mr. Smith - pointed out that 128-5 (h) already addresses discharging guns on town property and this ordinance could truly be as simple as adding just "Exposing or" to that ordinance. Mr. Smith's biggest fear is that if we have another protest where guns are present that he would like to give the police the ability to manage the situation as opposed to private citizens. He doesn't think our town can handle a situation where violence escalates because of the presence of a gun. From a risk management perspective you put in place procedures and protocols to avoid bad situations, particularly crisis situations. This ordinance does that. It simplifies ordinances and still allows people to carry and he hasn't seen a situation where anyone has argued against that.

Ms. Bloom – agrees with the Risk Management perspective and points to the past experience of people in the room and what they have experienced and feels their experience is why we need to do this.

Mr. Eide – With this testimony tonight, this is not coming from a place of fear but a place of trauma and Newtown is not just any town. In our town in particular we now some people cannot be in the same room as a gun and for the town to provide for that safety is not too much to ask. He feels we need to provide safe places for our towns people to congregate and if folks feel the need to carry they can wear conceal. He doesn't think this is crazy to ask.

Ms. Reiss – Agrees that people may be forever traumatized. She says that it isn't the LC's responsibility to make the police's job easier. She used an example that what if people said that black chevy's were more dangerous because of their size and we decided to simply ban them to make it easier for police. She says she is frightened that we are stretching laws. She highlighted Australia as another example. She also feels that we don't have an issue with open carry being an issue in town and therefore should the LC be making ordinances if there isn't an issue. She feels gun permit owners are being going to be the ones affected by this.

Ms. Reiss – She says CT is a Dylans rule state and municipalities derive their power from the state and the state has more regulations than any state in the country and doesn't feel this is legal. She says Attorney Grogins that every time this is been brought to trial it's always failed and that his research does not provide a clear basis for concluding that the local (municipal) prohibition of the open carry of firearms will successfully weather a challenge in court. She doesn't feel that this means we don't have the right to pass this ordinance.

Mr. Lundquist – Confirms this conversation has been going on for a while. What he has learned from both sides is that there is not a compulsion from owners to open carry. And on the other side there has not been many occasions where there have been cases for open carry, but as stated in early meetings, Newtown is different and even though you can say this is an emotional issue, it is not intangible but in fact, is very tangible and while the work of this group is not done yet, the question will come down to what is the greater good for the Town of Newtown. There is not a compulsion to open carry, but it is a right and the real question is that an aspect of 2nd amendment rights that can be carved out for reasonable purpose for a town that is different from any other town and that is ultimately the question that the council will answer.

Ms. Bloom – She feels that eliminating the open carry of arms would serve the greater good and would not inhibit existing gun permit owners since they generally do not open carry. It would benefit so many individuals and children. She says laws can be changed and are worth fighting for. We can still conceal carry while not hurting those folks that are traumatized. Let's set an example that this town is different and we can do better.

Mr. Smith – stated we started out at the committee level asking if we should do this and he feels we have made progress on that point and the Chief's feedback really helped qualify that this would be for the greater good, and be better managed, and that this ordinance will clarify a law that is ambiguous. The LC should work to fix ordinances that are not clear and useful. He stated that it is worth everyone re-reading Grogins letter since it referenced several towns that have full ban of guns on town property and that it must be re-emphasized that we are not doing that here. We, already as a council, voted to take out a full ban on guns on town property. Grogins letter does mention many CT that have banned guns in parks. He restated that the banning of open carry will satisfy both constituencies. He feels the ordinance committee needs to put this forth to the new council.

Mr. Eide – stated that in relation to Dylans Law this state has preempted guns for hunting and firearms and that municipalities have passed laws in CT. The original Bill of Rights didn't apply to states and the original 2nd amendment applied to state's rights and incorporation document took Bill of Rights to States. He feels that to make the statement that our original founders would not have wanted is wrong, that our founders pushed to have decisions made locally and this is a perfect situation where Newtown, and not Hartford, can be where this can be handled.

Ms. Reiss – For clarification, the other towns that have passed these laws have not been challenged in court. She did ask about prior meetings where we did ask about putting together a purpose statement and where we were with that. Mr. Smith responded that he had prepared a draft and that was in the hands of the Chairperson of the Ordinance Committee, Mr. Knapp, but felt that the discussion we were having now was part of that statement and doesn't change anything that would be different from that draft statement he has put together.

Ms. Reiss – also feels we need to be aware of unintended consequences and that we may be potentially inviting people to open carry to challenge this ordinance. She also feels that people that are fined may be brought to the state on other charges and would be fearful that their permit would be removed because of any potential fines.

Mr. Eide - asked if he could put forth a motion and wanted something forceful and that he thinks we need to affirm our positive feelings that the Council should pass this. His motion - "Move to recommend continued research, development and approval by the newly elected legislative council to ban open carry of firearms on town property." Ms. Bloom Seconded.

There was discussion around the word approval.

Mr. Lundquist - Rather than being specific on the word approval, suggested using the word “positive” in front of consideration. Mr Eide, re-affirmed that this is just a recommendation so any language put forth is just that, a recommendation. He feels being neutral is understating how this ordinance committee feels on this topic. He stated this recommendation may still be overridden at the current council level.

Mr. Smith - made an amendment to the motion “Move to amend the motion to read “move to recommend continued positive consideration by the newly elected legislative council of a potential ordinance to ban open carry of firearms on town property.” Ms. Bloom seconded.

Ms. Reiss - feels we don’t have an issue in town and this will face legal challenges.

Mr. Eide - feels we need to positively affirm the committee needs to send a message to the next council and we determine the message that our message affirms that we have had hearings, done research, looked at other towns, spoken to attorneys and after consideration of this information we would vote to approve it.

Vote on the Amendment to the Motion: Mr. Eide – No, Ms. Bloom, Yes, Ms. Reiss – Yes, Mr. Smith – Yes. (3-1 for amended language)

Ms. Reiss: Commented that she has stated her opinion and feels saddened that both sides have not been speaking with one another. She says that there are stories of people being saved from firearms and wants people to seek out those stories. She affirms that we don’t have an issue here and will only open up other problems and doesn’t feel we should do that as an elected official.

Vote on the Motion: Mr. Eide – Yes; Ms. Bloom – Yes; Ms. Reiss – No, Mr. Smith – Yes. Motion passes (3-1).

Voter Comment:

Nia Meane – feels that fear takes multiple levels and to say that since not everyone has seen or heard it doesn’t mean it hasn’t happened. She does not think you can compare gun ordinances with other safety measures like cars is accurate or equitable. We are not talking about taking guns away. We are simply saying that guns should not be shown in public.

Madeline Richard 22 Narragansett Road – The effects of shootings are very real to Newtown Students and she is having a very hard time understanding why there is a need for open carry. And to say that there is a very big need for preventative laws. Reactionary laws are not good and we shouldn’t have to suffer a tragedy for a law to be put in place. This town has gone through enough.

Maggie Labanca – 33 Paugussett Road. She says she doesn’t want to take guns away and that is a very hard statement for her to say. She just doesn’t want to see them.

Jake Schuman – 28 Great Hill Road, it’s simply about the right not to have to see other people carrying weapons.

Evon Mcleary – Address not clear – She wanted to tell how she gets nervous even with police around so she can't imagine how others could feel even worse. Also mentioned how many others wanted to come and felt they didn't feel safe or wanted to experience potential aggressive comments about their feelings. She feels conceal carry satisfies gun owner needs, but that those that don't feel comfortable have to endure that in open town property.

Pat Troy - Great Ring Road. He has been in Newtown for 25 years. He was concerned with the council considering pro bono work and he thinks that type of offer would be considered bribery. He says he doesn't get why a town would pass laws to protect feelings. Says we are creating a solution to a problem that doesn't exist.

Natasha - Last name and address unclear – She wanted to respond about hurt feelings. She says she is a survivor of the Sandy Hook massacre and is dealing with so many mental issues. In her opinion, to say that this is simply hurt feelings is absolutely absurd. She can't express how angry that makes her. The experience has affected her overall being. She feels the founding fathers would have had wanted the well-being of American citizens to be put first and this is not what we are doing here.

Carlie Becker – Old Town Road – Whole point is only about open carry. Feels open carry is all about intimidation.

Gary Liljengren- 15 Split Rock Road – Said he has to chuckle when we think about two sides talking. The only time he has seen open carry is at the NSSF. Says no one got hurt doing that protest. He thinks open carry is a way to advertise to potential bad people that they shouldn't commit crimes in areas of business and used an example of a robber going into a store and seeing people with open carry. He feels that would change the mind of that robber and people should think about that.

Don Lococo, 27 Hi Barlow Road– Says that the municipal center, BOE, etc. are now at risk for anyone that wants to open carry. He just wants to make sure that people are aware there has been more violence with people that are voting and at BOE meetings. This is a concern that we had when these ordinances were initially put forth and feels we need to get ahead of this issue.

Connie Cooper – 13 Todds Road – Says that the shooting at Sandy Hook was not an issue until it was. To say there isn't an issue with open carry is not accurate until it will be.

Mr. Eide made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Bloom Seconded. All confirmed.

**Chris Smith,
Vice Chairman, Ordinance Committee
Legislative Council**

Smith, Chris T.

From: Chris Smith <chrissmith.newtown@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 1, 2021 4:19 PM
To: Smith, Chris T.
Subject: Fwd: Form submission from: Contact the Newtown Legislative Council

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From: Ed Schierloh via Newtown CT <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>
Date: Tue, Oct 26, 2021 at 6:40 PM
Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Newtown Legislative Council
To: <chrissmith.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Tuesday, October 26, 2021 - 6:40pm
Submitted by anonymous user: 32.212.147.120
Submitted values are:

Your name: Ed Schierloh
Your e-mail address: eschierloh@gmail.com
Subject: Potential Firearms ordinance
Message:

I strongly oppose the proposed firearm ordinance for the following reasons,
This is state controlled issue and not for the town to act on
This is also a constitutional Issue and again not for the town to restrict constitutional rights
If this were to pass the town would be sued to have it overturned
There have been no problems related to the proposal that would even justify it
Thank you,
Ed Schierloh

The results of this submission may be viewed at:
<https://www.newtown-ct.gov/node/86983/submission/135736>

Smith, Chris T.

From: Chris Smith <chrissmith.newtown@gmail.com>
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Date: Tue, Oct 26, 2021 at 7:44 PM
Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Newtown Legislative Council
To: <chrissmith.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Tuesday, October 26, 2021 - 7:44pm
Submitted by anonymous user: 24.151.68.180
Submitted values are:

Your name: Kathryn Mayer
Your e-mail address: kathrynmayer1@gmail.com
Subject: gun ordinance support

Message:

I've been searching for the zoom invite for tonight's meeting and unable to access it. Here is my previous email, with address:

In an effort to create a system of laws to protect all the people you represent, including our law-abiding gun owners, I wholeheartedly encourage you to support the banning of open carry on public properties in Newtown CT. Even if we were not such a polarized people, we do not need the intimidation and lethal potential of firearms added to the mix.

Kathryn mayer
5 hyvue drive
newtown ct 06470

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<https://www.newtown-ct.gov/node/86983/submission/135741>

Smith, Chris T.

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From: Gary Liljengren via Newtown CT <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>
Date: Wed, Oct 27, 2021 at 12:21 PM
Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Newtown Legislative Council
To: <chrissmith.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Wednesday, October 27, 2021 - 12:21pm
Submitted by anonymous user: 24.151.69.15
Submitted values are:

Your name: Gary Liljengren
Your e-mail address: gliljengren@snet.net
Subject: Ordinance Committee Meeting 10/26/2021

Message: I attended the Ordinance Committee last night. I find it hard to believe, that after seeking legal advice, that the Committee would forward this you with a positive recommendation. The legal advice was the ordinance is unconstitutional. I hope we didn't have to pay the attorney too much, seeing as we are not taking his advice. Also, I asked the Police Chief, who owns the town roads? His reply was the town does not own the roads but they are required to maintain them. I searched on line this morning, and what I found was that the town does indeed own the roads. Be that the case, your ordinance would prohibit driving on the town roads. Would someone reply as to ownership of the town roads? If it is not the town, then who is it?

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Smith, Chris T.

From: Chris Smith <chrissmith.newtown@gmail.com>
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From: David Rouleau via Newtown CT <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>
Date: Thu, Oct 21, 2021 at 12:08 PM
Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Newtown Legislative Council
To: <chrissmith.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Thursday, October 21, 2021 - 12:08pm
Submitted by anonymous user: 75.135.176.3
Submitted values are:

Your name: David Rouleau
Your e-mail address: davidrouleau369@yahoo.com
Subject: Legislative Council Ordinance Committee meeting for 26 October 2021
Message:

To the Newtown Legislative Council:

My name is David Rouleau and I am a Newtown resident. I am writing you today to contribute to the discussion that would create an ordinance "prohibiting open carry of firearms" in Newtown

I am opposed to any ordinance of this type. If this is to become a town ordinance it will add yet another unreasonable restriction to every individual who LAWFULLY chooses to exercise their right to own and carry a firearm. Lawful permit holders already are forced to navigate a labyrinth of laws and restrictions throughout the state as well as the entire country. With so many different laws in place from one town to the next a person can violate a towns ordinance, simply by crossing a town line and not even be aware of it.

I understand this would NOT be an outright ban on carrying firearms in Newtown, but it could be one step in that direction. This ordinance is being pushed by a small group of people who are accusing others of "threatening" simply because they can see the other person is carrying a firearm, and it makes them uncomfortable. The fact that some people may feel intimidated at the sight of a firearm, does not legitimize creating ordinances that would punish law abiding citizens who choose to have a means to defend themselves and their families.

There is a significant difference between open carrying, and "brandishing" a firearm. If someone is waving their firearm around recklessly that is brandishing. If someone is actually threatening, firearm or no firearm, I believe that in itself is illegal already. Simply carrying a firearm in clear view is completely harmless. Police officers do it every day, yet nobody is calling for them to be forced to conceal their firearms. Are they? If someone is not threatened by a police officer open carrying a firearm, then there is absolutely no reason they should feel threatened by a permit holder open carrying a firearm. In my experience the majority of permit holders are some

of the most law abiding citizens there are. We have to be in order to pass the constant background checks we need to go through when we renew our permit as well as each time a firearm is purchased.

All too often law abiding citizens end up being punished for exercising our constitutional rights simply because the laws and ordinances often can change from one town to the next make it virtually impossible to keep up with them all. A lawful permit holder could find them selves in trouble if they were to inadvertently let their firearm be visible ANY time they are carrying it in public. While lifting and bending and doing work it is not always practical or possible to carry concealed. If an ordinance of this type were to be allowed even a person who is carrying concealed could be effected. As I mentioned previously a person carrying concealed can often expose their firearm unintentionally. If under a coat or shirt, their clothing can easily shift during normal movements or even sometimes be visible through the fabric. In situations like that a person might try to interpret that as "open carrying" because their firearm might inadvertently be visible.< br /> Please do not allow any proposals like this to become town ordinances now or in the future. Punishing law abiding permit holders would only embolden criminals making our community less safe. Please do not allow us to become a community of defenseless victims.

Thank you for your time and I hope you will keep the rights of the public in mind when making this decision.
David Rouleau

The results of this submission may be viewed at:
<https://www.newtown-ct.gov/node/86983/submission/135556>

Smith, Chris T.

From: Chris Smith <chrissmith.newtown@gmail.com>
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Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Newtown Legislative Council
To: <chrissmith.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Monday, October 25, 2021 - 6:45am
Submitted by anonymous user: 69.135.94.37
Submitted values are:

Your name: Wayne A Covill
Your e-mail address: covilw@yahoo.com
Subject: Proposed changes to the town's firearm ordinances

Message: With respect, I would like to remind the council that open carry is legal under state law; that the proposed ban will certainly be challenged in court and impose large costs to the town to defend; that this is a solution in search of a problem which doesn't exist, except in the overly fearful and biased minds of a small number of people; that open carry is no more of an implicit or explicit threat to anyone than concealed carry, and that Newtown Action Alliance has cynically pursued this course of action because it's members are unalterably opposed to firearms ownership and are trying to exploit the unfounded fears of the non-gun owning public. Please do not impose this ban. Thank you.

The results of this submission may be viewed at:
<https://www.newtown-ct.gov/node/86983/submission/135606>

Smith, Chris T.

From: Chris Smith <chrissmith.newtown@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 1, 2021 4:24 PM
To: Smith, Chris T.
Subject: Fwd: Form submission from: Contact the Newtown Legislative Council

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From: Joseph Harrington via Newtown CT <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>
Date: Mon, Oct 25, 2021 at 10:18 AM
Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Newtown Legislative Council
To: <chrissmith.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Monday, October 25, 2021 - 10:18am
Submitted by anonymous user: 2600:6c65:797f:cdb6:492b:ce6d:8114:41ae
Submitted values are:

Your name: Joseph Harrington
Your e-mail address: joeyharrington1997@yahoo.com
Subject: Open carry ban proposal 10/26/2021

Message: I do not support this proposed ordinance. Open carry is LEGAL in Connecticut. Put this to rest please do not pass this ordinance. Responsible gun owners don't deserve to be punished for wanting to carry a firearm for protection.

The results of this submission may be viewed at:
<https://www.newtown-ct.gov/node/86983/submission/135611>

Smith, Chris T.

From: Chris Smith <chrissmith.newtown@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 1, 2021 4:23 PM
To: Smith, Chris T.
Subject: Fwd: Form submission from: Contact the Newtown Legislative Council

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From: Stephen Riccitelli via Newtown CT <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>
Date: Mon, Oct 25, 2021 at 10:43 AM
Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Newtown Legislative Council
To: <chrissmith.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Monday, October 25, 2021 - 10:43am
Submitted by anonymous user: 154.6.16.79
Submitted values are:

Your name: Stephen Riccitelli
Your e-mail address: sriccitelli127@gmail.com
Subject: Objection to proposed firearms ordinance
Message:

I am writing to voice my opposition to the potential firearms ordinance banning open carry in town.

I have read the opinions and would agree with attorneys Grogins and Dobin that such an ordinance may likely not survive a court challenge. As a resident and taxpayer, I believe the expense of defending a certain legal action to be a poor and ultimately ineffective use of tax resources addressing what amounts to a solution in search of a problem.

Stephen Riccitelli

The results of this submission may be viewed at:
<https://www.newtown-ct.gov/node/86983/submission/135616>

Smith, Chris T.

From: Chris Smith <chrissmith.newtown@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 1, 2021 4:23 PM
To: Smith, Chris T.
Subject: Fwd: Form submission from: Contact the Newtown Legislative Council

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From: **Connie Cooper via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>
Date: Mon, Oct 25, 2021 at 1:32 PM
Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Newtown Legislative Council
To: <chrissmith.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Monday, October 25, 2021 - 1:32pm
Submitted by anonymous user: 2600:6c65:797f:ce44:2034:be20:5b9a:a624
Submitted values are:

Your name: Connie Cooper
Your e-mail address: connie9876@gmail.com
Subject: Open Carry Ordinance

Message: I support the ban of open carry on town property. If there's any doubt regarding how I feel about both the psychological impact and the safety issue of open carry on town property, please refer to my letter to the editor in the October 22nd edition of The Bee.

The results of this submission may be viewed at:
<https://www.newtown-ct.gov/node/86983/submission/135636>

Smith, Chris T.

From: Chris Smith <chrissmith.newtown@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 1, 2021 4:23 PM
To: Smith, Chris T.
Subject: Fwd: Form submission from: Contact the Newtown Legislative Council

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From: **Dominic Uliano via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>
Date: Mon, Oct 25, 2021 at 7:54 PM
Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Newtown Legislative Council
To: <chrissmith.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Monday, October 25, 2021 - 7:54pm
Submitted by anonymous user: 141.126.211.137
Submitted values are:

Your name: Dominic Uliano

Your e-mail address: domblklab@gmail.com

Subject: Open carry and Concealed carry in the town of Newtown

Message: I just want to state that it is our constitutional right within the 2nd amendment to carry a firearm for our individual protection. That is a real concern to think that the Newtown Legislative council might try to alter that right.

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

<https://www.newtown-ct.gov/node/86983/submission/135646>

Smith, Chris T.

From: Chris Smith <chrissmith.newtown@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 1, 2021 4:23 PM
To: Smith, Chris T.
Subject: Fwd: Form submission from: Contact the Newtown Legislative Council

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From: Elizabeth Litt via Newtown CT <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>
Date: Mon, Oct 25, 2021 at 9:00 PM
Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Newtown Legislative Council
To: <chrissmith.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Monday, October 25, 2021 - 9:00pm
Submitted by anonymous user: 2600:6c65:797f:f300:9de6:19f:f333:7d7f
Submitted values are:

Your name: Elizabeth Litt

Your e-mail address: betsylitt@gmail.com

Subject: Ban on open carry

Message: I'm writing to support the ban on open carrying of firearms on town owned property. People don't need a gun to protect themselves on town property; openly carrying a gun only serves to frighten and intimidate people. Please advance this ordinance. Thank you.

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

<https://www.newtown-ct.gov/node/86983/submission/135651>

Smith, Chris T.

From: Chris Smith <chrissmith.newtown@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 1, 2021 4:23 PM
To: Smith, Chris T.
Subject: Fwd: Form submission from: Contact the Newtown Legislative Council

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From: Richard Fisher, DDS via Newtown CT <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>
Date: Mon, Oct 25, 2021 at 9:14 PM
Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Newtown Legislative Council
To: <chrissmith.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Monday, October 25, 2021 - 9:14pm
Submitted by anonymous user: 71.88.45.57
Submitted values are:

Your name: Richard Fisher, DDS
Your e-mail address: rbfdds@gmail.com
Subject: Open Carry Shall Not Be Infringed
Message: The Second Amendment to the US Constitution and the Constitution of Connecticut State guarantee that our right to self-defense shall not be infringed. I am a Newtown resident and I oppose any local legislation opposing the respective Constitutions.

The results of this submission may be viewed at:
<https://www.newtown-ct.gov/node/86983/submission/135656>

Smith, Chris T.

From: Chris Smith <chrissmith.newtown@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 1, 2021 4:22 PM
To: Smith, Chris T.
Subject: Fwd: Form submission from: Contact the Newtown Legislative Council

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From: Kenneth Swanson via Newtown CT <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>
Date: Tue, Oct 26, 2021 at 1:40 AM
Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Newtown Legislative Council
To: <chrissmith.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Tuesday, October 26, 2021 - 1:40am
Submitted by anonymous user: 2600:8805:d80d:f600:e1da:6034:1:d16c
Submitted values are:

Your name: Kenneth Swanson
Your e-mail address: kenswanson6@aol.com
Subject: Supporting restriction on open carry
Message:

Hello, I write to you as a concerned citizen of Connecticut regarding the issue of open carry in Newtown and the ongoing public debate and discussion on open carry. I'm a young man who has served my community as a first responder for most of my adult life. Recently, I received word that pro 2nd Amendment acquaintances of mine (all of whom are not Newtown constituents) are reaching out to write testimonies to uphold the right to open carry. After learning of this, I felt compelled to reach out and express my opinion on this.

This opinion, is that there are zero benefits to allowing open carry in any form. Not to anyone in the presence of an open carry gun owner, and not for the greater good of public safety.

Given the distant and unfortunately not-so-distant past tragedies, many people feel justifiably uncomfortable when confronted with someone visibly carrying a deadly weapon on their back or hip. A person open carrying shows off to everyone that they have the power to escalate any situation to deadly force should they see fit. The majority of gun owners are not trained, educated, or sometimes even level-headed enough to wield that power and responsibility. Regardless of what many 2nd amendment proponents say, the main purpose of a firearm is to give the user the ability to end a human life at their sole discretion.

I grew up in the background of the horrible events of Newtown's past, and seeing this issue being raised again, I cannot let this pass without speaking to the public good, and to oppose those who would try to callously exaggerate their privilege to bear arms.

Thank you for your consideration, and I wish you all the support you need in this public conversation to make the best decision for Newtown.

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

<https://www.newtown-ct.gov/node/86983/submission/135661>

Smith, Chris T.

From: Chris Smith <chrissmith.newtown@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 1, 2021 4:22 PM
To: Smith, Chris T.
Subject: Fwd: Form submission from: Contact the Newtown Legislative Council

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From: RONALD POLARD via Newtown CT <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>
Date: Tue, Oct 26, 2021 at 7:27 AM
Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Newtown Legislative Council
To: <chrissmith.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Tuesday, October 26, 2021 - 7:27am
Submitted by anonymous user: 32.212.150.75
Submitted values are:

Your name: RONALD POLARD
Your e-mail address: RPOR@SBCGLOBAL.NET
Subject: gun ordinance

Message:

Please..no more gun laws!!!!

The state of ct. has strict and comprehensive gun laws which ONLY THE LAW ABIDING WILL OBEY.
Additional laws will put undue burden on law abiding citizens while doing little to address gun violence .
Thank you

The results of this submission may be viewed at:
<https://www.newtown-ct.gov/node/86983/submission/135671>

Smith, Chris T.

From: Chris Smith <chrissmith.newtown@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 1, 2021 4:22 PM
To: Smith, Chris T.
Subject: Fwd: Form submission from: Contact the Newtown Legislative Council

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From: Andy Koehm via Newtown CT <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>
Date: Tue, Oct 26, 2021 at 7:51 AM
Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Newtown Legislative Council
To: <chrissmith.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Tuesday, October 26, 2021 - 7:51am
Submitted by anonymous user: 2600:6c65:797f:e3a9:9de:806f:fdbe:3688
Submitted values are:

Your name: Andy Koehm
Your e-mail address: apk4545@hotmail.com
Subject: Proposed Firearms Ordinances

Message: Please do NOT pass any local firearms ordinances. The State of CT regulates firearms and has sole legal authority to do so. There is NO open carry issue in Newtown as evidenced by police reports. The frivolous open carry ban proposal is being advanced by Newtown Action Alliance and Sandy Hook Promise non-profits so they can continue to fund raise off "gun control". The Constitution State has already banned the AR15 rifle. Now NAA & SHP need a new issue to make money. Don't get fooled into doing their dirty work. Newtown does not need another lawsuit.

The results of this submission may be viewed at:
<https://www.newtown-ct.gov/node/86983/submission/135676>

Smith, Chris T.

From: Chris Smith <chrissmith.newtown@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 1, 2021 4:22 PM
To: Smith, Chris T.
Subject: Fwd: Form submission from: Contact the Newtown Legislative Council

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From: Edward Randall via Newtown CT <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>
Date: Tue, Oct 26, 2021 at 10:22 AM
Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Newtown Legislative Council
To: <chrissmith.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Tuesday, October 26, 2021 - 10:22am
Submitted by anonymous user: 2600:6c65:797f:f300:1cef:5263:a68:a58a
Submitted values are:

Your name: Edward Randall
Your e-mail address: edwardnrandall@icloud.com
Subject: Ban on open carry

Message: I'm writing to ask you to support the ban on open carrying of firearms on town owned property. There's no good reason for someone to be openly showing a gun on town property; that can only create danger, not prevent it. Please vote to move this ban forward, to keep Newtown safe & free of fear and intimidation. Thank you.

The results of this submission may be viewed at:
<https://www.newtown-ct.gov/node/86983/submission/135686>

Smith, Chris T.

From: Chris Smith <chrissmith.newtown@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 1, 2021 4:21 PM
To: Smith, Chris T.
Subject: Fwd: Form submission from: Contact the Newtown Legislative Council

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From: Jon Russo via Newtown CT <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>
Date: Tue, Oct 26, 2021 at 12:02 PM
Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Newtown Legislative Council
To: <chrissmith.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Tuesday, October 26, 2021 - 12:02pm
Submitted by anonymous user: 24.151.44.190
Submitted values are:

Your name: Jon Russo
Your e-mail address: jonathan@jonathanrusso.com
Subject: Message Against the Proposed Open Carry Prohibition
Message:
To the members of the committee,

I'm writing this message in opposition to a proposed open-carry prohibition in Newtown.

You'll hear from my contemporaries all sorts of arguments regarding constitutional rights, disabilities, comfort, etc... I'll tell you already that the right to bear arms is an unalienable right protected by both the U.S. and Connecticut constitution, and that isn't what I'm trying to convince you of.

Today, I ask you to consider the ramifications of an open-carry prohibition on minorities. Should this pass, how many calls and miss-calls are going to be made to the police? I'm a videographer, and one of my peers on a college campus was arrested because bystanders thought that his tripod was an "assault weapon", they locked down the whole block and were ready to slay a college student on the whims of a phone call made with good intentions. If they didn't spot his camera in time, they would've killed an innocent man. As a minority this is scary, because it is undue attention from law enforcement on law abiding citizens. I believe that open carry in itself is not a cause for alarm, but people abusing law enforcement to oppress their opposition is in all contexts.

This is what's being proposed, for law enforcement officers to stop every person that walks into Newtown that is open-carrying unknowingly "illegally" because it's legal in the rest of our state. For some this will be nothing but a "have a nice day" and maybe a ticket, others that lack this privilege will be met with the full force of your law enforcement officers.

This is uncalled for conflict that will exacerbate the inequities of our system, at the cost of the safety and lives other than your own.

Thank you for your consideration,
Jon Russo

The results of this submission may be viewed at:
<https://www.newtown-ct.gov/node/86983/submission/135696>

Smith, Chris T.

From: Chris Smith <chrissmith.newtown@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 1, 2021 4:21 PM
To: Smith, Chris T.
Subject: Fwd: Ordinance Regarding Open Carry of Firearms

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From: **Barbara Wojcik** <barbara.m.wojcik@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Oct 26, 2021 at 1:45 PM
Subject: Ordinance Regarding Open Carry of Firearms
To: <juditnewtownlc@gmail.com>, <chriseide4newtown@gmail.com>, <reiss.newtown@gmail.com>, <jordanabloom.newtown@gmail.com>, <Knapp.Newtown@gmail.com>, <chrissmith.newtown@gmail.com>

Ordinance Committee Members,

I believe open carry of firearms on town property should be prohibited. I appreciate the actions of those in moving this forward in Newtown.

Sent from my iPad

Smith, Chris T.

From: Chris Smith <chrissmith.newtown@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 1, 2021 4:21 PM
To: Smith, Chris T.
Subject: Fwd: Form submission from: Contact the Newtown Legislative Council

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From: Jeffrey Tang via Newtown CT <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>
Date: Tue, Oct 26, 2021 at 4:59 PM
Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Newtown Legislative Council
To: <chrissmith.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Tuesday, October 26, 2021 - 4:59pm
Submitted by anonymous user: 24.146.248.15
Submitted values are:

Your name: Jeffrey Tang
Your e-mail address: houseoftang@yahoo.com
Subject: Potential Firearms Ordinance
Message:
Hi,

My name is Jeff Tang, and I'm a Fairfield resident who often spends time in Newtown for work and for recreation. I want to say that if the Legislative Council passes an ordinance banning "open carry" of lawfully carried firearms, I am going to avoid Newtown because such an ordinance would endanger me.

I'm also a brown man who has felt first-hand how police attention puts my life at risk. Because I usually have a tape measure in a holder on my belt as I travel to and from my carpentry work, I believe I am likely to be wrongly mistaken for someone openly carrying a firearm. I do not intend to become yet another statistic like George Floyd or Philando Castile.

I recall an incident in 2013 after the horrific tragedy in Sandy Hook when someone called the police on someone carrying a black umbrella, believing it was a rifle. While I understand that the kind of trauma that took place causes people to react this way out of fear, I don't think playing into that fear at the cost of the lives of people like myself is the right response. I believe our communities should be focusing on education to reduce violence, not passing laws which will have little to no effect on violence except to expose people like me to greater risk and contact with the police.

I hope the Council will take my perspective as a person of color into consideration.

Thank you.

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

<https://www.newtown-ct.gov/node/86983/submission/135706>

Smith, Chris T.

From: Chris Smith <chrissmith.newtown@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 1, 2021 4:21 PM
To: Smith, Chris T.
Subject: Fwd: Form submission from: Contact the Newtown Legislative Council

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From: Karen Kupec via Newtown CT <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>
Date: Tue, Oct 26, 2021 at 5:08 PM
Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Newtown Legislative Council
To: <chrissmith.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Tuesday, October 26, 2021 - 5:08pm
Submitted by anonymous user: 32.211.47.38
Submitted values are:

Your name: Karen Kupec
Your e-mail address: karenakupec@gmail.com
Subject: Open Carry Firearm Ordinance

Message: I am opposed to the proposed Newtown gun ordinance. Connecticut gun laws are already well regulated by state statute. There have been no issues reported to local police on this issue. With the surrounding rate of crime, lawful permit carriers should have full constitutional rights of being able to carry anywhere. The proposal is not needed as a CT voter, and resident!

The results of this submission may be viewed at:
<https://www.newtown-ct.gov/node/86983/submission/135711>

Smith, Chris T.

From: Chris Smith <chrissmith.newtown@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 1, 2021 4:20 PM
To: Smith, Chris T.
Subject: Fwd: Form submission from: Contact the Newtown Legislative Council

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From: Mark Hansen via Newtown CT <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>
Date: Tue, Oct 26, 2021 at 5:31 PM
Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Newtown Legislative Council
To: <chrissmith.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Tuesday, October 26, 2021 - 5:31pm
Submitted by anonymous user: 2601:198:0:1f20:3c20:c04:4a55:5046
Submitted values are:

Your name: Mark Hansen
Your e-mail address: mark2864@sbcglobal.net
Subject: Opposition to the ban of open carry of firearms in Newtown.
Message:
To whom it may concern;
Newtown Legislative Council,

I am writing to strongly express my opposition to any and all infringements against The Second Amendment and any proposed bans against the open carrying of firearms in public in the town of Newtown and/or on town property.

The right to bear arms is a federally protected, God-given, natural right of all US citizens. And the state of Connecticut recognizes the right of good citizens to open-carry firearms for self defense. While most of us choose not to carry openly, some people choose not to carry concealed due to physical limitations, disabilities or for logistical reasons and/or accessibility.

At times it may be advantageous in fact to carry openly in order to deter criminals and to send the message that they are not welcome. But we do not carry to intimidate others. We don't pretend to be cowboys or vigilantes. We are simply good citizens who only wish to be able to protect and defend ourselves and other innocent people in case of emergencies.

I urge you NOT to ban the right to open-carry in public and/or on town property in Newtown.

Thank you for considering my comments on this matter.

Mark Hansen
(MS Education, Security Officer)
31 Meadowbrook Dr.
Shelton, CT 06484
203-305-7957

The results of this submission may be viewed at:
<https://www.newtown-ct.gov/node/86983/submission/135716>

Smith, Chris T.

From: Chris Smith <chrissmith.newtown@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 1, 2021 4:20 PM
To: Smith, Chris T.
Subject: Fwd: Form submission from: Contact the Newtown Legislative Council

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From: Oliver via Newtown CT <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>
Date: Tue, Oct 26, 2021 at 5:33 PM
Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Newtown Legislative Council
To: <chrissmith.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Tuesday, October 26, 2021 - 5:33pm
Submitted by anonymous user: 2001:558:6017:14f:c8b9:8fc0:8ec6:eff2
Submitted values are:

Your name: Oliver

Your e-mail address: oliver.augustin@gmx.com

Subject: Regarding the Potential Firearms Ordinance

Message: I am opposed to the firearms ordinance on tonight's agenda, a proposed ban on open carry on town property. Connecticut's state laws regarding firearms are plenty robust and there have been no criminal incidents involving open carry. Stop trying to make criminals out of law-abiding citizens.

The results of this submission may be viewed at:
<https://www.newtown-ct.gov/node/86983/submission/135721>

Smith, Chris T.

From: Chris Smith <chrissmith.newtown@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 1, 2021 4:20 PM
To: Smith, Chris T.
Subject: Fwd: Form submission from: Contact the Newtown Legislative Council

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From: **Cristen Rescigno via Newtown CT** <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>
Date: Tue, Oct 26, 2021 at 6:13 PM
Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Newtown Legislative Council
To: <chrissmith.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Tuesday, October 26, 2021 - 6:13pm
Submitted by anonymous user: 74.92.53.109
Submitted values are:

Your name: Cristen Rescigno
Your e-mail address: cristenrescigno@gmail.com
Subject: Proposed Ban on Open Carry Limited to Town Property
Message:

I am ill and unable to attend the meeting this evening, so in lieu thereof, I submit the following statement:
My name is Cristen Rescigno, and I live at 28 the Boulevard in Newtown.

I attended the last Legislative Counsel Ordinance Subcommittee meeting regarding this topic (proposed ban on open carry of weapons limited to town property) in July. I introduced myself as a Newtown resident and a mother and a neighbor; but I should have also introduced myself as a cousin and a niece. I attended that meeting sitting next to my uncle, Mark Barden, whose son (my cousin), Daniel Barden, was one of the children shot to death by a gun in our little town on December 14, 2012.

If you attended that July meeting, you might recall my uncle, Mark, when it was his time to speak, said one thing: "Newtown is different." I'm going to say it again: Newtown is different. Some of us, all of us to some extent, have been through the absolutely unimaginable. And it would be disingenuous to pretend that unimaginable, shared trauma doesn't have anything to do with firearms.

If you attended that July meeting, you might recall that my uncle, Mark, stepped out and left early, but you don't know why. Mark left early that evening because the sun had set and his daughter, who was in fifth grade when her baby brother was murdered in this town by a gun, but is nineteen now- an adult- his adult daughter is sometimes desperately anxious when she is by herself after dark. She is an adult and she cannot be alone at night. Trauma is real and trauma is deep and trauma is lasting – trauma like that is indelible. It is PTSD and it changes us in unexpected and devastating ways.

If you attended that July meeting, you might remember a woman who appeared to be attending in opposition to this proposal, who at the end of the meeting urged everyone attending to remember that, at the end of the day, we are all neighbors. That stuck with me. Because I think that goes to the heart of what the legislation is

intended to address. Love thy neighbor. Love thy poor, traumatized, agonized neighbor. When Daniel was murdered, I watched this community cradle my family, care for them, pull together and mourn with them, hold them. Neighbors and friends dropped off food for years. I distinctly remember thinking, and even saying out loud, that people were good, that the only thing that can help a big bad thing is a million little good things. Thank you, friends and neighbors, for the care, love, and devotion you've shown.

If you attended that July meeting, you might recall that I mentioned I am attorney. During law school I focused and specialized in constitutional law, and I'd like to give you a high level overview of why this proposal not only works, but fits exactly *exactly* as a permitted exception within constitutional jurisprudence. The Second Amendment is a fundamental right. Period. As such, when given judicial review, it is typically subjected to what is called "strict scrutiny." In a nutshell: the courts look to whether the law in question is necessary to achieve a compelling purpose, that the law is narrowly tailored to achieve that compelling purpose, and that the law is the least restrictive means to achieve it.

Newtown has a compelling interest in keeping its residents safe- in all respects- its residents' physical wellbeing and mental and emotional wellbeing. Newtown is different. We have scars. And by narrowly tailoring this restriction by limiting it to merely open carry and only on town property, it is the least restrictive means to achieve this compelling goal, and thus eminently constitutional and permitted and worthy of your attention and vote.

I urge the legislative counsel- we are neighbors. Please continue to care for our most vulnerable.

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

<https://www.newtown-ct.gov/node/86983/submission/135726>

Smith, Chris T.

From: Chris Smith <chrissmith.newtown@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 1, 2021 4:20 PM
To: Smith, Chris T.
Subject: Fwd: Form submission from: Contact the Newtown Legislative Council

ATTENTION - EXTERNAL EMAIL - The sender of this email is EXTERNAL to our email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. The Original Sender of this email is chrissmith.newtown@gmail.com

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Kathryn Mayer via Newtown CT <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>
Date: Tue, Oct 26, 2021 at 6:21 PM
Subject: Form submission from: Contact the Newtown Legislative Council
To: <chrissmith.newtown@gmail.com>

Submitted on Tuesday, October 26, 2021 - 6:21pm
Submitted by anonymous user: 24.151.68.180
Submitted values are:

Your name: Kathryn Mayer
Your e-mail address: kathrynmayer1@gmail.com
Subject: gun ordinance support

Message:

In an effort to create a system of laws to protect all the people you represent, including our law-abiding gun owners, I wholeheartedly encourage you to support the banning of open carry on public properties in Newtown CT. Even if we were not such a polarized people, we do not need the intimidation and lethal potential of firearms added to the mix. FFS.

The results of this submission may be viewed at:
<https://www.newtown-ct.gov/node/86983/submission/135731>