

ARMED GAYS DON'T GET BASHED.



Mayor Robert Moon
Mayor Pro Tem Chris Mills
Councilmember Ginny Foat
Councilmember Geoff Kors
Councilmember J.R. Roberts
Executive Assistant Jennifer Nelson
CITY HALL
3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way
Palm Springs, CA 92262

Re: Opposition to Proposed Firearms Ordinance

Dear Honorable Members of the Palm Springs City Council:

I write to you on behalf of the Pink Pistols, a non-partisan organization dedicated to activism supporting Second Amendment rights, especially for those in the GLBT community. The Pink Pistols' motto is "Armed gays don't get bashed." A significant portion of what Pink Pistols does is educating and training the GLBT community in the proper use of firearms to defend against violent attacks from criminals and bigots and providing a safe, non-judgmental environment for members of all experience levels to feel comfortable while doing so.

It has come to our attention that the City of Palm Springs is considering an ordinance further restricting the lawful use of firearms in response to the recent terrorist attack in Orlando. We are opposed to any such ordinance. No legislation, either federal, state, or local, has had any protective effect against criminal or terrorist activity like the attack on the Orlando nightclub. Nor is the enforcement of any law guaranteed.¹ In fact, none of the provisions of the proposed

¹ See, e.g., *Town of Castle Rock, Colorado v. Gonzales*, 545 U.S. 748 (2005) (holding that individuals have no interest in police enforcement of a restraining order)

ordinance would have prevented the attack or would have had any deterrent effect, despite this being a primary motivation for the ordinance.

As a result of the attack in Orlando, the Pink Pistols has seen a surge of over 6,500 new members wishing to exercise their Second Amendment rights in order to defend themselves, and that number continues to grow. As a result of this increase, the Pink Pistols now has over 40 chapters nationwide, including a chapter in Palm Springs.² What's more, firearm sales to the GLBT community have soared.³ And everywhere throughout the United States law abiding firearm instructors are offering free shooting lessons to members of the GLBT community.⁴

To that end, the City of Palm Springs should instead seek proposals that encourage and promote the safe handling of firearms, which we know will have the desired effect of promoting public safety. We ask the City to consider such programs before enacting ordinances that will only impact law abiding gun owners and do nothing to promote public safety.

Sincerely,

Gwendolyn S. Patton
First Speaker, Pink Pistols International
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<http://www.pinkpistols.org>

² See <https://www.facebook.com/PalmSpringsPinkPistols/>.

³ Keagan Harsha, *Gun Sales Surge Among Gays, Lesbians After Orlando Shooting*, FOX31 Denver, <http://kdvr.com/2016/06/14/gun-sales-surge-after-orlando-shooting/> (June 14, 2016).

⁴ See, e.g., Tom Knighton, *Bigots? No, Heroes: U.S. Gun Owners Everywhere Offering FREE Shooting Lessons to Gays*, PJ Media, <https://pjmedia.com/trending/2016/06/15/bigots-no-heroes-u-s-gun-owners-everywhere-offering-free-shooting-lessons-to-gays/?singlepage=true> (June 15, 2016).