

Policy Proposal for PDX City Council.

Wednesday, February 11, 2015

Oregon Episcopal School, Government, Politics, Citizenship class students

Gun violence is increasing every year in the United States. Even Portland, a fairly safe city, has begun to show the effects of gun violence. This violence is now becoming an issue for the city's young people - last June a freshman student was killed at Reynolds High School, just outside the city, and recently a shooting occurred at a north Portland high school, where one of those students shot was a former intern for Mayor Hales.

Gun violence is happening everywhere in the United States. The victims can seemingly be anyone - your neighbor next door, or your friend living on a street close to you. Recently, a 3-year-old child accidentally shot his mother in a Walmart with a gun he pulled from her purse. If we don't set strict gun control laws in Portland, these tragedies will happen here. One day, one of us might be a victim of gun violence.

In April 2013, the Portland City Council approved 5 gun control measures. In his most recent State of the City address, the Mayor said that he want to enact stricter gun control measures this year, and that he would ask the state legislature to pursue stronger measures for Oregon. We, students from Oregon Episcopal School, in the name of all of Portland's citizens, ask the Mayor and this council to enact even stricter gun regulation now, by passing an ordinance to ban assault weapons and high capacity magazines.

Based on ordinances passed by other cities, we request this council pass an ordinance that shall provide:

that no person shall manufacture, sell, offer or display for sale, give, lend, transfer ownership of, acquire or possess any Assault Weapon or Large Capacity Magazine, unless expressly exempted by the Portland City Council.

Results of a challenge to a similar ordinance, upheld by Federal Court (June 2013) re: Highland Park, IL

"First, a severe burden on the core Second Amendment right of armed self-defense will require an extremely strong public-interest justification and a close fit between the government's means and its end. Second, laws restricting activity lying closest to the margins of the Second Amendment right, laws that merely regulate rather than restrict, and modest burdens on the right may be more easily justified. How much more easily depends on the relative severity of the burden and its proximity to the core of the right."

Other cases support the constitutionality of state and city-wide bans of assault weapons and high capacity magazines:

- *DC v. Heller* (2008) - 2nd Am. rights are not unlimited.
- *Friedman v. Highland Park* (2013) - upheld city prohibition on sale, possession, manufacture of assault weapons and high-capacity magazines
- *DC v. Heller II* (2014)- upheld city's ban on assault weapons and large capacity ammunition magazines
- *Kampfer v. Cuomo* (2014) - upheld New York's *assault weapons ban* by finding it does not substantially burden Second Amendment rights
- *Colo. Outfitters Ass'n v. Hickenlooper* (2014) - upheld Colorado's *ban on large capacity ammunition magazines*
- *Kolbe v. O'Malley* (August 2014) - upheld Maryland's *ban on assault weapons and large capacity ammunition magazines*

<<<<<-----Original Message-----

>>>>>From: Mike Gwaltney [mailto:gwaltneym@oes.edu]

>>>>>Sent: Wednesday, December 10, 2014 9:34 AM

>>>>>To: Moore-Love, Karla

>>>>>Subject: city council agenda

>>>>>

>>>>>Dear Ms. Moore,

>>>>>

>>>>>I am the Chair of the History Department at Oregon Episcopal School
>>>>>in the Raleigh Hills neighborhood of SW Portland, and teach a course
>>>>>for 12th graders called "Government, Politics, and Citizenship." A
>>>>>result of our recent class project has been a student policy
>>>>>proposal for municipalities. The students are eager to make a
>>>>>significant act of citizenship, by presenting their idea to city council.

>>>>>

>>>>>We were wondering if it is possible to have 10-15 minutes on an
>>>>>upcoming council agenda to present the student's work. This would be
>>>>>an excellent experience for the students that would help them meet
>>>>>key learning goals about government, politics, and citizenship, and
>>>>>it would also be a key first citizenship action on the part of
>>>>>engaged and thoughtful young voters.

>>>>>

>>>>>I have reached out to the mayor's staff for help getting on the
>>>>>council's agenda for sometime in early to mid January. Is that a
>>>>>good way to go about this? Perhaps you could provide other suggestions?

>>>>>

>>>>>Thank you for your advice and help on this.

>>>>>

>>>>>Best,

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>>>>>

>>>>>MIKE GWALTNEY

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>>>>>Chair, PK-12 History Department

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>>>>>Upper School Teacher

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>>>>>Oregon Episcopal School

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>>>>>6300 SW Nicol. Road

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>>>>>Portland, OR 97223

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Moore-Love, Karla

From: Mike Gwaltney <gwaltneym@oes.edu>
Sent: Friday, February 06, 2015 11:28 AM
To: Moore-Love, Karla
Subject: Re: city council agenda

Karla,

Here is an order for the students. I was also hoping to make a very brief comment at the beginning of their presentation:

1st group:

Mike Gwaltney
Maddie Mosscrop
Elizabeth Keeney

2nd group:

Zach Solomon
Rowan Berridge
Nut Cheepsongsuk

3rd group:

Meredith Loy
Teddy Morrissette
Jackson Thomas

4th group:

Peter Graham

Chelsea Choi

MIKE GWALTNEY
Chair, PK-12 History Department
Upper School Teacher
Oregon Episcopal School
6300 SW Nicol Road
Portland, OR 97223


Request of Zach Solomon, Rowan Berridge and Nut Cheepsongsuk to address Council regarding Oregon Episcopal School's Government, Politics and Citizenship course; a student policy proposal for municipalities (Communication)

FEB 11 2015

PLACED ON FILE

Filed FEB 06 2015

MARY HULL CABALLERO
Auditor of the City of Portland

By  Deputy

COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz		
2. Fish		
3. Saltzman		
4. Novick		
Hales		