

Campbell officials discuss potential gun ordinances

**Officials acknowledge that gun-related crimes in the city are not on the rise.....
but additional ordinances needed as “preventative measures “**

**Islamic Terrorism is not on the rise in Campbell but one wonders if Campbell would
consider ordinances to ban Muslims as “preventative measures “.**

**LCAV anti-gun activists use behind the scene tactics to get local bureaucrats
to implement gun control ordinances.**

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With firmer regulations possibly on the way, it may be more difficult to sell and obtain a gun in the Orchard City.

A push in recent years to reduce gun violence in the Bay Area has brought the potential for more gun regulations at the municipal level. The city of Campbell, which has fairly few safeguards in place, is discussing the possibility of adding to its firearms ordinances.

"From a law enforcement perspective, what we're looking at is how can we keep guns out of the hands of the people who aren't supposed to have them," Campbell Police Capt. Dave Dehaan said at a study session with city officials this week.

The efforts originate from the **Association of Bay Area Governments**, which in 2008 commissioned a task force to **look into model ordinances that would decrease gun violence in the region**. The task force **recommended ordinances from the Legal Community Against Violence**, a San Francisco-based organization founded by lawyers following the 101 California Street shootings in 1993.

Historically, gun control policies have been crafted at the federal and state levels, but local governments have begun taking an expanded role. Like other cities in the county, Campbell has limited gun-related ordinances in its municipal code. They include prohibiting possession of a firearm and other weapons in city and county parks, the sale of firearms by home businesses and the discharge of a firearm within the city limits, although there is an exception if it's done in self-defense.

The Campbell Police Department, **using the LCAV model as a guide**, has issued its list of recommendations for additional ordinances in Campbell. Among them are the need for local firearms dealers to obtain a license issued by the police department, employees to go through background checks and obtain a certificate of eligibility from the state department of justice, and inventory reports of firearms and ammunition every six months. Additionally, dealers may need to obtain liability insurance and post warnings on their properties regarding secondary sales of firearms.

Most of what has been proposed would regulate firearms dealers, although one recommendation requires that firearm owners report the loss or theft of a firearm to the police department within 48 hours. Other recommendations from the police department were only partially supported, **such as prohibiting the sale of firearms and ammunition near schools, parks, liquor stores and residential areas.**

The city of Campbell has two arms dealers that have federal firearms licenses from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Big 5 Sporting Goods on W. Campbell Avenue sells rifles, shotguns and ammunition, while Jeff Gippetti's shop on McGlinchy Lane mainly handles the repair and maintenance of sporting firearms. There **also are a handful of other residents in the city who possess federal licenses to purchase but not deal in antique firearms.**

Gippetti, who participated in the discussions, acknowledged that **the proposed ordinances were not unreasonable**, but he was concerned about how it may be perceived in the gun community. Most notably, he said, gun owners may feel that this could lead to the start of extensive government regulation.

"It's not a bad deal, but people look at it and think, 'Oh, geez, here we go,' " said Gippetti, an advocate of more gun safety education rather than regulation.

The timing of the discussions has led to questions about the state of gun violence in the city. While **officials acknowledge that gun-related crimes in the city are not on the rise, they see additional ordinances as preventative measures** that will require better safeguards on the part of gun dealers and owners.

"Record keeping is one of the ways that we can help maybe take out those few bad apples in what are generally law-abiding arms dealers," Vice Mayor Jason Baker said. Added Councilman Mike Kotowski, "We've been very, very fortunate in Campbell. I don't think we've had a lot of major firearms issues."