

STATEMENT OF ROBERT BEVIS

IN OPPOSITION TO:

AN ORDINANCE ADDING CHAPTER 19 (REGULATION OF THE COMMERCIAL SALE OF ASSAULT WEAPONS AND LARGE-CAPACITY MAGAZINES) OF TITLE 3 (BUSINESS AND LICENSE REGULATIONS) OF THE NAPERVILLE MUNICIPAL CODE

Good evening, Naperville Council members. My name is Robert Bevis. I am the owner of Law Weapons in Naperville, which is a family-owned business we have spent roughly twenty years building literally from the ground up.

- I Hold 3 ATF licenses
- I'm a Law Enforcement Firearms Instructor
- Licensed Private Detective in Illinois
- Certified Master Gunsmith
- Certified Concealed Carry instructor

My family and our employees have honorably served the people of Naperville, Responsible Citizens, and Law Enforcement for roughly two decades and I couldn't be prouder of how we run our business.

You may not know that countless people in Naperville, including many members of Local, State and Federal law enforcement, rely upon our expertise and trust us with the tools they depend on for their safety and safety of others – a trust we've earned because of how we've run our business for two decades.

I agree with each of you that something needs to be done regarding the out-of-control gun violence in America today.

The way to move forward on this issue is not to close a business with 11 employees working hard assisting Law Enforcement and public citizens with achieving self-protection from violent criminals for over 20 years.

I started this business with the intent to support Law Enforcement (hence the name Law Weapons) and provide a way for the private citizen to be safer while living in a state with one of the largest crime problems in the country.

So what does Law Weapons provide to the Naperville community:

First: We assist Naperville PD and other Federal, State and Local Law Enforcement agencies by selling, repairing, and maintaining the firearms they use to protect the community

Second: Law Weapons assists the everyday citizen by helping them obtain the correct firearm they need for personal protection followed by the ability to receive state of the art training.

This training ranges from correct safe storage, to proper usage and care of the firearm, as well as the legal considerations of using a firearm for personal protection.

Can you imagine if one of your children or family members were involved in a violent confrontation with an individual looking to kill, rape or cause serious bodily harm to them. If you could provide them with the tools to stop that violent attack, wouldn't you want to do it.

The only known way to stop a lethal attack is if you are aware, have a firearm and have the proper training to defend yourself. By the time the police are called the attacker has inflicted the harm and has probably left the scene.

We have countless Naperville citizens that come into our business every day searching for help so they can protect themselves and their loved ones.

The ordinance if passed as written would result in closing my business and will have no positive affect on reducing violent crime in Naperville.

Studies have proven that hardened criminals obtain their firearms illegally not from a federally licensed firearms dealer.

You Should Know that no firearms sold from my business have been used by any individuals to further their criminal activity.

At my business before purchasing a firearm, you must have a:

- valid firearm owners identification card
- be questioned by trained staff about the reason for your purchase
- complete an FBI background
- and wait the required 72 hours before taking possession of the firearm.

This is not how criminals obtain a firearms. They can't because we follow the law.

Law weapons is the first line of defense to prevent an individual from purchasing a firearm that should not have one. In fact, every transfer requires a background check, and often they are not approved. If that happens the transfer is terminated by Law Weapons preventing access to the firearm by a prohibited person.

Also, due to the new law signed by Governor Pritzker Law Weapons currently is serializing so called **GHOST GUNS** too and has serialized over 400 of them and YES performed Federal background checks on each of the customers.

Protecting the citizens of Naperville is my number one priority. In fact, there has been numerous times that Law Weapons has contacted Naperville police to check out sketchy individuals trying to purchase firearms.

One instance I remember in August of 2019, is when a man came into Law Weapons to have a firearm repaired that wasn't working, when the staff noticed he was wearing an ankle bracelet after not being able to present a FOID card. The staff seized the firearm and notified Naperville Police.

The man then attempted to drive 4 hours to Iowa to purchase another firearm but his plans to kill his sister were foiled by the Naperville Police. He was sentenced to 3 years in prison.

Another time I remember a man and woman entering the shop, the male was looking at firearms after realizing the woman was under duress, I talked to her and was told she was being held against her will. We removed her to a safe place and detained the man until police arrived. It was confirmed she was being held against her will.

Over the years Law weapons has provided services to the Naperville Police Department, such as: Donations to the PD, Selling and customizing firearms, Repairing firearms for the SWAT team. Providing Ammo during the shortage, repairing individual police officers' guns and destroying seized firearms for the department.

Law weapons has been doing business in Naperville since 2014. Most of the Naperville Police Officers have visited my store and received services. We have a deep-seated relationships with law enforcement officers in Naperville and the surrounding communities. Just ask them!

Law weapons has also assisted countless men and women with choosing the right firearm for self-protection and has professionally trained well over two thousand people. In other words, the community knows me and the critical services we provide are wanted and needed.

I would ask that you at least consider grandfathering Law weapons, due to its long track record of providing legitimate, lawful, and needed services to the community and as a business that strives to make Naperville a safer place.

I could not imagine if a horrible crime was committed against one of your family members or loved ones and you could have prevented it by allowing them to purchase the very thing, they needed to protect themselves.

You can still own and possess firearms in Naperville and this ordinance still allows the private party transfer and sale of firearms.

I ask this question of the council,

If the ordinance prevents the purchase of a firearm in Naperville by a Responsible Citizen, from a **federally licensed firearms dealer**, with the **expertise and knowledge of two decades in business**, with **professionally trained staff** following all **state and federal laws**, offering **professional firearm training** to properly protect yourself in your own community,

HOW DOES THIS ORDINANCE MAKE NAPERVILLE SAFER?

There are many examples of everyday citizens stopping individuals from committing mass shootings. One such example happened over the weekend in a mall in Indiana where a deranged individual came in and shot 3 individuals.

A citizen stopped this individual with a personal firearm and is credited with saving countless lives. Today he is being called a **hero by law enforcement**.

He, his family and complete strangers are alive today because he could purchase a firearm and receive the proper training to use it.

Law Weapons recently invested over \$200,000 dollars to purchase **Virtual Simulators** to provide state of the art training to customers and police. The same Simulators use by the FBI and Law Enforcement across the country.

My company has proven record of working closely with local law enforcement where our cooperation prevented several individuals who clearly should not have a firearm from obtaining one. Firearms sold at Law Weapons don't get in the hands of criminals.

I am here to express my strong opposition to the Ordinance you are considering. If you pass that Ordinance, you will literally destroy in the blink of an eye everything that my family has spent a large part of our lives building together.

This Ordinance, if passed, will do absolutely zero to prevent even one crime or fatality.

- It will not stop one criminal intent on committing a crime in Naperville.
- It will not shut down a single street criminals use to get to Naperville to commit crimes,
- It will not prevent or solve a single gang crime,
- a deranged criminal from committing a crime,
- criminal from getting a firearm and
- people in Naperville will not be safer because of this Ordinance.

We all know why we are here because something needs to be done about the mass shootings happening all over the US. Let's work on this issue together and make a real difference.

Thank you,

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Bevis

Date: 07/19/2022