

THE BULLY

DONATIONS ACCEPTED

Official Publication of Western Missouri Shooters Alliance

August 2024

Still no Trace of the Truth

In our first installment of a critical analysis of an anti-gun propaganda podcast series from The Trace, we covered the lies, misinformation, and deceptive emotional arguments made in the first four episodes. Here, we will delve into the fifth episode, which continues the previous format, but adds embarrassing incidents where The Trace contradicts itself in an attempt to push its anti-gun messaging.

The intro to the transcript of the 5th installment of the podcast, which is titled “How a SCOTUS Decision Led to an Unprecedented Gun Sales Boom,” kicks off with the completely discredited claim popular among the anti-2A crowd, “For most of American history, gun ownership was understood to be a collective right tied to militia membership. But that changed in 2008, when The U.S. Supreme Court established for the first time that gun ownership is an individual right.”

In fact, American history—judicial and otherwise—is replete with proof that our Founding Fathers intended the Second Amendment to protect an individual right to arms that is in no way dependent on citizens being affiliated with a militia.

While there have not been many rulings on the Second Amendment from our highest court since the Founding Era, in *U.S. v. Cruikshank* (1876), *Presser v. Illinois* (1886), *Miller v. Texas* (1894) and *U.S. v. Miller* (1939), the Supreme Court recognized that the amendment protects an individual right. It has never taken a different position.

The *Heller* decision in 2008 followed the long-standing precedent of recognizing the individual right to arms when it struck down as unconstitutional the ban on possessing handguns in Washington, D.C.

Of course, it comes as no surprise that anti-gun fanatics would ignore history and court precedent to further their desire to disarm as many law-abiding Americans as possible. But the rewriting of history is something we’ve begun to see as a weirdly-common trope with those who oppose the Second Amendment.

The Trace, seemingly fixated on the *Heller* decision and the year 2008, implies the ruling led to that “unprecedented gun sales boom” mentioned in the title of its fifth episode of the propaganda podcast series. One of the “journalists” is so vested in this new “gun sales boom” connection to *Heller* that she forgets that last year she seemed to attribute the 2008 “boom” in the manufacture and importation of firearms in the U.S. to the election of Barack Obama. In that earlier piece, she went with the term “surge” instead of “boom,” and attributed another “surge” between 2011 and 2012 to Obama’s reelection, then attributed another “surge” from 2015 to 2016 to the election of Donald Trump, and finally noted the “biggest year-over-year jump on record” was between 2019 and 2020. That “surge” she attributes to the pandemic.

So, it seems that any increase in firearm purchases/production can be attributed to whatever suits one’s anti-gun fancy.

Of course, the *Heller* decision isn’t the only apparent villain for these “journalists.” They also seem to attribute the post-*Heller* “boom” to “the National Rifle Association trotting out its most successful marketing strategy: defensive gun use.” But NRA has been espousing “defensive gun use” for more than a century, and The Trace even recognizes that “defensive gun use” has long been a part of America.

Starting in the late 1980s, NRA began promoting legislation to make it easier for law-abiding citizens to carry firearms for self-defense—Right to Carry laws—which, at its heart, is “defensive gun use” away from the home.

In the 1970s, we opposed efforts to ban “plastic guns” (e.g., Glocks) and “Saturday Night Specials” (inexpensive handguns); firearms law-abiding citizens commonly purchased for “defensive gun use.”

And rolling all the way back to 1911, after the passage of New York City’s Sullivan Law—arguably the granddaddy of all anti-gun laws—our publications began a century of opposition to the law based on concerns that it infringed on lawful “defensive gun use.”

Then there’s the fact that we have been publishing stories about “defensive gun use” for nearly as long in our Armed Citizen column.

Even the transcript itself contradicts the post-*Heller*/defensive gun use argument, noting that “defensive gun use became the animating force of the gun rights debate in the 80’s and 90s,” then it tries to pivot by saying that the concept “really took off after Florida passed Stand Your Ground in 2005.”

The 1980s and 1990s certainly predate 2008/*Heller*, as does 2005, not to mention the near century over which NRA has been talking about “defensive gun use.”

In fact, the podcast includes the statement, “And the use of firearms for self-defense goes back over a century....” While that is true, it sells the timeframe extremely short. Firearms have been used for self-defense ever since they became commonly available—a period that spans many centuries.

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...dedicated to the restoration of the inalienable right to keep and bear arms as guaranteed by the 2nd Amendment

The Alliance is a regionally-based, grass-roots organization that seeks to:

- 1. Counter the designs of malicious legislators.
2. Confront the media's twisted portrayals of gun rights issues.
3. Politicize and activate gun owners in defense of their rights.
4. Acquaint the public with the true nature of the Second Amendment.
5. Network with other pro-gun groups to coordinate local, state and national strategies.
6. Train people in basic firearm safety and handgun defense.
7. Sponsor and support pro-gun legislation
8. Make politicians aware that gun owners are awakening from their accustomed apathy and WILL TOLERATE NO FURTHER EROSION OF THEIR FREEDOMS

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COMING EVENTS

Events may be cancelled at last minute due to Covid Restrictions.

WMSA

General Membership Meeting

Sept. 24, 2024

7:00 PM

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TRUTH (Continued from page 1)

The podcast even specifically notes an ad it uncovered from 1913 that depicted “a woman defending herself with a (firearm).”

But The Trace wants to pretend it was NRA that started the “defensive gun use” messaging around the time of *Heller*.

Of course, The Trace doesn’t actually like the concept of “defensive gun use,” which is clear when it tries to negate it by dramatically undercounting its frequency. One of the “journalists” tries to claim that even the lowest reported number for defensive gun use—The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), which estimates roughly 70,000 annual defensive gun uses—is too high. But the Heritage Foundation notes that even the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) mentions “almost every major study on defensive gun use has found that Americans use their firearms defensively between 500,000 and 3 million times each year.”

This “journalist” seems to have trouble wrapping her head around the concept that guns are not just used to defend lives very regularly, but that law-abiding citizens who use guns for self-defense don’t have to shoot anyone in order to defend themselves or their loved ones with a firearm.

She tries to dispute, presumably, the well-established research done by criminologists Gary Kleck and Marc Gertz, who found that there are an estimated 2.1-2.5 million defensive gun uses every year in America. Her contention seems to be that, since there “aren’t 2.5 million instances of criminal gun violence every year,” there cannot possibly be 2.5 million defensive uses.

Does she think that violent crime involving firearms and defensive gun use can only exist in a world of equilibrium, each dependent on the frequency of the other? She mentions “45,000 shootings last year where someone was injured or killed,” although she doesn’t bother to explain if that number refers to criminals shooting victims. This seems to imply that there cannot be much more than 45,000 defensive gun uses (since she seems to think the NCVS estimate of 70,000 is too high). What she ignores is the fact that, as previously stated, a law-abiding citizen doesn’t have to fire a single shot for a firearm to be used in self-defense.

In fact, virtually every survey of people using firearms in self-defense tells us that the vast majority of defensive gun uses do not involve a single shot being fired. Economist John Lott’s work estimates that 95-98% of defensive gun uses involve merely brandishing a firearm to “break off an attack.” Other research indicates a lower percentage, but still in the 70-80% range.

It would seem that, contrary to reality, The Trace has convinced itself that the only way to defend yourself with a gun is to shoot someone. This likely stems from the deep anti-gun bias these “journalists” have when it comes to both firearms and law-abiding gun owners. In their minds, guns are only intended to kill people, so gun owners must WANT to kill people.

But the disparity between the number of people shot by criminals and the number of people who use firearms for defensive purposes speaks to a more profound truth than anti-gun extremists wish to admit.

Criminals don’t care about the safety of others, while law-abiding gun owners do. Or, in another way of looking at it, criminals use firearms to commit crimes (cause harm), while law-abiding gun owners use them to prevent them (avoid harm).

The gun in the hands of a criminal is intended to better ensure the completion of the intended criminal act. If that intended act is murder, they will shoot. If it is robbery, rape, kidnapping, or some other crime that is not initially intended to kill someone, but if the victim puts up resistance, the criminal is likely to shoot.

On the other hand, law-abiding citizens own firearms—in part—to prevent crime. If a criminal approaches an armed citizen in a threatening manner and the armed citizen draws or displays a firearm, the criminal will often retreat. With the threat no longer present, the armed citizen has no reason to fire a shot.

That’s just common sense to gun owners, as well as the average American who may not own guns but also doesn’t have a visceral fear or hatred of guns and gun owners.

Anti-gun extremists, like those at The Trace, just cannot seem to comprehend the idea of firearms being used as a crime deterrent unless someone gets shot. Even worse, the “journalists” at The Trace appear to think that gun owners are simply reckless fantasists. One tries to dismiss perhaps two million-plus instances of self-defense as, at best, an overactive imagination. At worst, she believes that reported self-defense is actually criminal activity.

She states, “People tend to overstate their role in self-defense encounters.” She then goes on to claim, “But the truth is, a lot of times, what they think of as defensive gun use is assault. You know, diffusing an argument by flashing a gun at a friend is not heading off a crime.”

This distorted perception of law-abiding gun owners gives her colleague the opportunity to launch into his own twisted view of how he perceives gun owners as reckless, trigger-happy miscreants. His addition to the negative depiction of law-abiding gun owners is to seemingly imply that they are possibly racist.

They both then segue into lamenting over the fact that NRA was able to stop the use of taxpayer dollars to produce biased, anti-gun research. While these “journalists” claimed the NRA-supported Dickey Amendment was a threat to the CDC to not conduct any research on deaths and injuries that involve firearms, all it stated was federal funds could not be used by the CDC to “advocate or promote gun control.”

But the relatively paltry \$2.6 million that The Trace implies the CDC could no longer earmark for anti-gun research has had little effect on anti-gun extremists churning out biased, flawed “research” to promote their efforts to gut the Second Amendment. After all, anti-gun billionaires like Michael Bloomberg are always willing to open up the checkbook to

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pay for anti-gun “researchers.” And well-funded anti-gun foundations have always pumped far more money into anti-gun “research” than was generally spent by the CDC.

Capping off its whine about a lack of “research,” The Trace then shows why it, and other anti-gun advocates, should never be believed when they start making claims about firearm-related fatalities—claims presumably based on the type of “research” they would like your tax dollars to go toward.

The Trace alleges that “gun violence is now the leading cause of death for children”—a lie that began being promoted in 2022, and has been repeated by Joe Biden, as his vice president, the White House Briefing Room, and myriad gun control advocates and anti-gun media outlets.

Just repeating something over and over again does not make it true, and we’ve exposed this lie before, and we’ve been supported in our position by the unlikely source of the generally-anti-gun Washington Post.

The Trace spends the rest of its time (roughly 1/3) for this edition of the podcast series talking about several high-profile mass-casualty events where firearms were used. While the anecdotal reporting is moving, it does not change the fact that, statistically speaking, such horrendous violent crimes are, thankfully, rare.

This episode had a great deal of misinformation and lies to unpack, so we’ll save coverage of the final episode for another time.

Minnesota Law Barring Handgun Permits for 18-20 Year Olds Struck Down

A federal appeals court has ruled that Minnesota’s ban on 18- to 20-year-olds obtaining a permit to publicly carry a handgun is unconstitutional, violating both the Second and 14th Amendments. The 8th US Circuit Court of Appeals’ unanimous decision stated that the state failed to prove that individuals aged 18 to 20 should be excluded from carrying handguns for self-defense. This decision comes after gun rights groups challenged the 2003 law.

The ruling follows a recent assassination attempt against Donald Trump by a 20-year-old, which has reignited debate over age-specific gun laws. The AR-style rifle used in the incident was legally purchased by the shooter’s father.

Minnesota’s argument that young adults are not competent to carry firearms was dismissed due to insufficient evidence.

This landmark decision sets a precedent affecting North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri, and Arkansas.

Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison expressed disappointment, while gun rights advocates celebrated the decision.



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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

THANKS
K.L. Jamison

People thank me for the work I have done for the movement. I write a few articles, run a few meetings. I don't need thanks, I need help.

There are openings on the Board of Directors. It is a smaller investment of time than you might imagine. If that seems too much. You can distribute safety information or Association materials in gunshops, barbershops, libraries and anywhere else people congregate.

People with special skills in computers are always needed. Experienced teachers are needed to instruct all these new shooters. Anyone with military experience knows more about guns than the new shooters. Just remember, you cannot drop them for pushups. Be what they call "an influencer." Cartoonists are important; a picture is worth a thousand words.

In an election year it is easy to contribute. Putting out signs and passing out literature for our friends will have results beyond the time spent. Elected politicians will appreciate our efforts, even if they were for the other side. They will be cautious about opposing our rights. This will create benefits for our grandchildren.

I hear that veterans tire of being thanked for their service. The best thanks is to be deserving of their service. I thank-you for the honor of being your president.

A CHEAP LEGAL NOTE REFLECTIONS ON "RUST"

K. L. Jamison

During a rehearsal for the movie Rust, Alec Baldwin pointed a Peacemaker replica at a cast member, cocked the gun, and pulled the trigger (probably, in my opinion). A woman was killed and another cast member wounded. A live round had been mixed in with dummy rounds. There were five other live rounds found among gun belts of other actors. How this occurred has never been satisfactorily explained.

The armorer for the movie, an assistant director and Mr. Baldwin were charged with involuntary manslaughter. The armorer was charged because she loaded the gun and was responsible for the guns and ammunition on the set. At her trial it was demonstrated that she was over her head with the many guns and armed cast members who clearly did not understand the basic safety rules. Guns were pointed at other cast members as a joke and when used as a pointer. The guns and ammunition were not adequately secured. Organization of the gun cart was non-existent. She complained that she received no support from the producers. There was not supposed to be any live ammunition but it is well known that blank ammunition can injure and kill. She was convicted of involuntary manslaughter and sentenced to eighteen months in prison, the maximum. She was also sentenced as a dangerous offender which meant that she would do nearly the entire term.

The assistant director pled guilty to involuntary manslaughter on the grounds that he handed the gun to Alec Baldwin and told him it was a "cold" or unloaded gun. He knew nothing about guns and did not check to see if it was loaded; he did not know how.

Alec Baldwin was charged because he pointed a real gun at a person and she died. He continues to deny pulling the trigger. FBI examination proved that the gun would not fire unless the trigger was pulled. Previous filmed rehearsals show his finger on the trigger. The rehearsal in question, ironically, was not filmed. One armorer has stated that if a Peacemaker trigger is pushed to the side it is possible that the hammer will not catch on the sear when cocked. I am not sure about this. If he pulled the trigger it was certainly unintentional. True or not; he did something dangerous and someone died. That is manslaughter. In his defense; the violence in Alec Baldwin's world is all imaginary. He had used guns in movies for decades and had grown casual about it. This is a warning for us all.

In the end, the charges against Mr. Baldwin were dismissed. It seems that a retired detective in Arizona (Rust was filmed in New Mexico) brought in a box of live ammunition he had obtained from the same distributor from which the Rust armorer had purchased blanks and dummy rounds. He thought they were similar to the cartridges found on the Rust set. No one talked to this guy and the box of cartridges was put into evidence under a different control number. The box was never revealed to the defense. This is Brady violation. Brady was a US Supreme Court case stating

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that everything must be disclosed to the defense. The judge in Mr. Baldwin's case ruled that the box of cartridges were relevant and material to the defense. I disagree. However the cartridges got onto the set, Mr. Baldwin was independently negligent by aiming and (probably in my opinion) firing the gun without checking for live rounds (in my humble opinion).

The judge dismissed the case with prejudice. It cannot be refiled. This sort of dismissal rarely happens. The prosecution may appeal the procedural ruling. Courts of appeal rarely overturn the judgment of a trial court judge on such matters.

This development will not affect the pending lawsuits.

The lesson for all of us is:

Know the safety rules

Live the safety rules

And everyone lives.

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Please send questions to Kevin L. Jamison 2614 NE 56th Ter Gladstone Missouri 64119-2311 KLJamisonLaw@earthlink.net. Individual answers are not usually possible but may be addressed in future columns.

This information is for legal information purposes and does not constitute legal advice. For specific questions you should consult a qualified attorney. The above is only the opinion of the author.

The Second Amendment spells out where the limits to gun rights are

From the U.S. Constitution: *A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.*

These words inspire bitter controversy. No one denies that the Second Amendment is part of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, but some on the political left seek to repeal it or to interpret it so as to make it meaningless, whereas most of the right regard it as holy scripture, to be interpreted as broadly and deeply as possible.

We should concede that the word, "militia" had a specific meaning in the 1790s with no exact equivalent today, and also note the phrase, "well regulated." The "militia" of that time were locally organized and armed self-defense groups. (Many of the authors of the Bill of Rights were distrustful of a standing army in peacetime, which we today take for granted.)

Also, the drafters of this amendment were well aware that a local armed "militia" might engage in unlawful insurrection. This had recently happened when the Constitution was being written with Shays' Rebellion after the Revolutionary War.

Unless one is a pacifist, one should concede a right of armed self-defense and also a right to cooperate with others for this purpose. Why should we not also agree that the Second Amendment indeed protects this right, but that it is subject to reasonable regulation? Why should not federal and local governments set limits on weapons, as to what are and are not reasonable means of self-defense and which individuals are responsible holders of weapons?

As far as I have heard, even passionate gun-rights advocates are not yet ready to send their children to kindergarten with firearms.

"Before a standing army can rule, the people must be disarmed; as they are in almost every kingdom of Europe. The supreme power in America cannot enforce unjust laws by the sword; because the whole body of the people are armed, and constitute a force superior to any band of regular troops that can be, on any pretense, raised in the United States."

— Noah Webster

"If there be a principle that ought not to be questioned within the United States, it is, that every nation has a right to abolish an old government and establish a new one. This principle is not only recorded in every public archive, written in every American heart, and sealed with the blood of a host of American martyrs; but is the only lawful tenure by which the United States hold their existence as a nation."

--James Madison



"To render us again one people acting as one nation should be the object of every man really a patriot." —Thomas Jefferson

**LIBERTY NOTES**

It is a good day for Liberty.

In the first season of the TV series "The Rookie" the title character (formerly the Captain on "Firefly") kills a bad guy in open and shut self-defense. At the scene he asked his training officer what he should do. He was told "nothing, this is a homicide and you are the suspect." This is very realistic and acted very well. He is questioned, second-guessed, and lied about by the bad guy's brother. Even his brother officers stare at him. He is consumed with self-doubt. This is a good episode to look at on your TV service or video supplier.

A columnist for the local tabloid writes that she favors freedom of speech for moderate Republicans like Mitt Romney but not conservatives like Marjorie Taylor Greene. This columnist clearly does not believe in freedom of speech. When the speech is mild disagreement it is OK. When it is confrontational it cannot be allowed. I remember being in the Kansas City Star building. There was an armed guard at the front door. This is something the paper opposes in every other context. I refuse to be advised by hypocrites.

I was invited to give a presentation on the Second Amendment, History and Modern Relevance at the Cass County Library in Belton. Things went well and I received a nice "thank-you" card from the librarian. The more of these presentations we do the better.

The Surgeon General has proclaimed "gun violence" (and only gun violence) is a public health menace. He says we must immediately have background checks on gun purchases and restrictions on automatic firearms. We have had a national background check system since 1992. Automatic firearms have been tightly restricted since 1934. He lies to us that these laws do not already exist, in an election year, in order to scare people into voting for his boss.

As I write this Alec Baldwin's trial for manslaughter has begun. He did not check a prop gun for live ammunition, pointed it at a lady, put his finger on the trigger and killed the woman. This violates the safety rules we live by and the movie safety rules. In his defense, all the violence in his world is imaginary. When the guns are real the safety rules control. I don't allow my grandchildren to point toy guns at people. Start safety habits early. Mr. Baldwin is on trial for manslaughter. He did not intend to kill that woman. He was unsafe with guns and someone died. That is manslaughter and all his money will not change that. Tell these new gun owners that Mr. Baldwin did not live by the safety rules. For this reason he is facing prison. At least he is spending a great deal of money in his defense.

It is now a felony to fire a gun in the air in Missouri. It is called Blair's law after a child who was killed by someone celebrating the 4th of July. My father told me that he was on Okinawa when the Japanese surrendered. As he put it, "Every nut on the island started shooting in the air." People were killed celebrating the end of WW II.

Federal Marshals assigned to protect Supreme Court Justice Sotomayor were threatened by a young man with a gun. One marshal shot him in the face but the attacker survived. This does not seem to be part of an attack on the Justice. It is ironic that the notoriously anti-gun rights Justice has armed protection. This is not unusual. Many powerful people believe they have the right to guns, at least armed security, but the rest of us do not. Justice Sotomayor's security is paid for by the government. That is supposedly different because the protectors are law enforcement. Those of us not powerful or rich enough to buy security think otherwise.

The wife and two daughters of a British sports commentator have been killed by a man with a crossbow. As this is a high profile murder case the government is considering restrictions on crossbows. Britain already bans handguns, heavily restricts rifles and shotguns and restricts possession of knives. There is a limit on how powerful a BB gun can be. Someone will be strangled with a necktie someday and they will ban this accessory.

Five musket balls have been found at the Lexington-Concord Bridge park. Initial investigation indicates that they were fired at British troops that day in April, 1775. This find is a reminder that we have to fight to keep our guns. These days our fight is political and in the courts and for that we thank God and the founders..

Given the controversy over the fitness of President Biden there is argument over replacing him. One choice is Vice President Harris, whose approval rating is lower than the President. Another choice is the governor of California who is known, if at all, for the train wreck that is California government and economy. A third choice is Michigan Governor Whitmer whom I heard of only because some yahoos plotted to kidnap her under the delusion that would fix something. Hillary Clinton and Michelle Obama have been mentioned. They have name recognition but cannot inherit the election funds raised for President Biden. The Democrats may give up the president's race as a bad job and focus on winning Congressional races. This makes it important to support our friends in congress.

I Second That.



Supporting Criminals? Chicago Tribune Frets Over Citizens Defending Themselves

Last weekend, Chicagoans witnessed a weekend that saw at least **72 people shot**. Tragically, nine of the victims died from their injuries. Just two weeks ago, Chicagoans survived a weekend that saw at least **44 people shot**. Tragically, at least eight of the victims died from their injuries.

In a city where criminals know they can get away with violence and criminal shootings – **even when police are involved** – it's not surprising that law-abiding Chicagoans would consider arming themselves and, God-forbid, having to use their firearm for self-defense or to protect their families.

That's just too much for The Chicago Tribune editorial board. The media masters there went out and did the most editorial board thing possible and decried such a trend.

"Worryingly, we're seeing more signs of that phenomenon in Chicago, with three separate episodes over the last weekend in which would-be victims proved to be both armed and willing to fire at their assailants," the board chose to write.

It must be nice to live in such an Ivory Tower. Is Anyone There?

So far in 2024, the crime situation in Chicago is so bad residents are relying on themselves for safety. In fact, according to NSSF-adjusted NICS data, nearly 200,000 Illinoisans have purchased a firearm during the first five months of the year alone, including in Chicago. They have no other choice.

Police and law enforcement have been hamstrung by "defund the police" politicians who cut budgets in recent years, including **400 police officer positions that were eliminated** in 2020. Even if any would-be victims in the Windy City called 911 for help, there's a better than even chance their call won't be answered. More than 50 percent of high-priority calls to emergency dispatchers go unanswered, according to **recent reports**.

So as crime remains a serious concern for Chicago residents, they've turned to legally purchasing a firearm. As a competitive shooter and past History Channel Top Shot champion Chris Cheng **told** U.S. Senators during a 2021 congressional hearing, "If I can't have law enforcement there, then it is a rational conclusion that individual citizens like myself would opt to utilize my Second Amendment right to purchase a firearm and use that firearm in lawful and legal self-defense."

Cue the Chicago Tribune's disapproval of that notion. Surely Not!

The Tribune's enlightened ones decried that Chicagoans have had it with the criminals running the city and are now standing their ground. They referenced four criminals who police said were attacking the lawful gun owners and were shot and wounded, all of them critically, **according** to a report. One would-be victim shot three criminals who were attacking him, and another shot a man who was breaking into his home.

"We're seeing more of these cases... But the majority of Chicagoans, we're convinced, don't feel any safer when they read stories of good-guy-with-a-gun responses to street crime... Overall, it's not a healthy environment in a city — where by definition people live close together — when gun-packing citizens become more the norm than the exception."

They even recognized that the "defund the police" effort has decimated the city. "Surely, it doesn't help the narrative, either, when the Chicago Police Department has more than 1,000 openings for officers that it's struggling to fill," the newspaper's editorial board wrote. "Surely, our public officials...can agree that the growing risks of more ordinary citizens taking responsibility for their own safety at the point of a gun isn't a healthy development."

Once again, if law enforcement can't be the ones to provide basic public safety to keep Chicagoans safe, what do they expect city residents to do?

NSSF Standing for Illinoisans

Regarding the editors' question about "agreeing" that ordinary citizens possessing and using firearms "isn't a healthy development," NSSF disagrees. It is a natural right to defend oneself against an imminent threat of death or serious bodily harm. Using a firearm in a bona fide self-defense situation is lawful.

If criminals are going to continue illegally obtaining and using guns to commit acts of violence against law-abiding citizens and law enforcement has been reduced to the point of being unable to adequately provide for the safety of communities, then more law-abiding citizens possessing firearms and getting trained to responsibly use them in self-defense is good.

That's why NSSF **petitioned** the U.S. Supreme Court in *Barnett v. Raoul* to consider the Constitutionality of Illinois' ban on commonly-owned firearms and standard-capacity magazines.

Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker signed the Protect Illinois Communities Act in January 2023, and it is among the nation's most expansive gun control laws. It bans the sale and possession of over 1,000 models of rifles, including commonly owned MSRs – of which there are more than **28.1 million** in circulation since 1990 – and certain semiautomatic handguns and shotguns as well as rifle magazines with a capacity greater than 10 cartridges and pistol magazines with a capacity greater than 15 cartridges. NSSF **challenged** the law within days of the governor signing the bill into law.

NSSF argues that the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit previously erred in upholding the state's ban, which blatantly violates the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

The U.S. Supreme Court's *Bruen* decision chastised states that would reduce Second Amendment rights to a state-government privilege granted by bureaucrats and the *Bruen* decision's "history and tradition" test rejected state attempts to inject "interest-balancing" tests. Previously, states and courts would justify gun control laws by placing a thumb on the scale to rationalize infringing on rights protected from infringement by the government.

One thing law-abiding citizens of Chicago will be closely watching is what happens in their city as the Democratic National Convention draws near. Security officials and convention planners are already voicing concerns about safety

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TRIBUNE (Continued from page 8)

issues, even proposing moving some events online as "virtual." Prognosticators seem to have a good idea of what lies ahead, especially when looking back at the violence surrounding the Chicago convention of 1968, with POLITICO writing, "The DNC is preparing for the worst in Chicago."

There's plenty to worry about in The Windy City including how officials are handling community safety and crime. Newspaper editors enjoying the comforts of their Ivory Tower should focus on efforts to hold the bad guys accountable for crimes and keeping them from returning to the streets, not what steps law-abiding Chicagoans are taking to lawfully protect themselves.

In Nebraska, when can you use deadly force in self-defense?

At 2:20 a.m. on Tuesday, near 51st and Q streets, 40-year-old Nicholas Gomez was shot and killed inside another man's home.

The homeowner was taken into custody but was later released. The Douglas County Attorney's Office says the homeowner likely acted in self-defense.

Josh Kidney, the lead instructor at 88 Tactical, told KETV that under **Nebraska law** there's no duty to retreat in your own home.

Nebraska's state law says: "The actor shall not be obliged to retreat from his dwelling or place of work, unless he was the initial aggressor or is assailed in his place of work by another person whose place of work the actor knows it to be."

Nebraska law allows deadly use of force when someone feels they need to avoid "death, serious bodily harm, kidnapping or sexual intercourse compelled by force or threat." When there is a duty to retreat, Kidney said it's important to note that's only if it can be done "in complete safety."

"Let's say I've got a big NFL linebacker," Kidney said, "that I can tell can run a lot faster than me. They said 'I'm going to kill you.' Can I run away from that person in complete safety? Probably not."

He added that when "you use lethal force in any situation, whether it's legally justified or not, there's going to be emotional aftermath. There's going to be financial aftermath. There's going to be legal aftermath."

The law is different when using non-lethal force, Kidney said. He said it's important to both know the law and train yourself to react appropriately when a high-stress situation comes.

Douglas County Sheriff Aaron Hanson agrees.

"Rarely do you see people rise to the challenge," Hanson said. "They sink to the level of their training...If you don't train your body on how to respond, you most likely will not respond appropriately. And when you have a deadly weapon and you use it, the rest of your life and your freedom is in the balance."

A woman who lives near the 51st and Q shooting scene told KETV the homeowner often rented a room out, but Gomez was not supposed to be living there anymore.

"Don't try to be different. Just be good. To be good is different enough." —Arthur Freed



SMITH & WESSON FPC 9mm Carbine

We will have a limited number of raffle tickets (1,000). We will not mail tickets to members to sell. Tickets will be available at all General meetings and at events where WMSA has a table. Additionally, to build our treasury for the coming year, this year's raffle is aimed towards gaining more WMSA members.

The tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. As an added incentive, bring in a new member at a General Membership Meeting and get a free raffle ticket. Any current member who brings in a new WMSA member gets a free raffle ticket for each new member added to our rolls.

Bring your prospective new member to a General membership meeting and when the new member completes the membership application and pays their dues, you are handed a ticket, no charge! The drawing for the rifle will be in July 2024, either at the Missouri Valley Arms Collector Show or the WMSA General Membership Meeting.

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Go recruit new members, get a free ticket for every member and exhaust our limited number of tickets.

Tickets can also be obtained via mail by sending a check to the WMSA, P.O. Box 11144, Kansas City, MO 64119.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

WESTERN MISSOURI SHOOTERS ALLIANCE

The Alliance is a regionally-based, grass-roots organization that seeks to;

- 1) Counter the designs of malicious legislators.
- 2) Confront the media's twisted portrayals of gun rights issues.
- 3) Politicize and activate gun owners in defense of their rights.
- 4) Acquaint the public with the true nature of the Second Amendment.
- 5) Network with other pro-gun groups to coordinate local, state and national strategies.
- 6) Train people in basic firearm safety and handgun defense.
- 7) Sponsor and support pro-gun legislation.
- 8) Make politicians aware that gun owners are awakening from their accustomed apathy and
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Occupation: _____

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REMINDER *Next General Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2024 at 7:00 PM*
*Meeting located at **Bass Pro** Independence, MO*

CONTACT INFORMATION - *Let them know what you think!*

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The Second Amendment Foundation
www.saf.org
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Gateway Civil Liberties Alliance
<http://www.gclastl.org/>
 866 385-GUNS (4867)

Missouri Carry
 Online Forum
www.missouricarry.com

Arming Women Against Rape and Endangerment
www.aware.org
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Women Against Gun Control
www.wagc.com
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