

Written Public Testimony for Regular Meeting April 25th 2013

Dear Multnomah County Commissioners,

I'm writing as a private citizen of Multnomah County Oregon to remind that some dots are connected. Many I know, myself included, are struggling to support Multnomah County §15.051 efforts (Regular Board Meeting Agenda Item R.1) because it will unintentionally make law-abiding voters easy prey and will embolden criminals making it even more important for us to defend ourselves. As written, §15.051 efforts create a catch-22 escalation that does nothing to stop criminals or protect our children.

Laws that toss the 'baby' (our rights) 'out with the dirty bathwater' (real criminals) do us harm and no good, so its important for you, our elected Commissioners, to yourselves investigate and confirm the statistics being offered by others as reasons for additional gun laws in Oregon. One example, in the opinion of most, the FBI raw numbers prove that communities having the fewest gun crimes and child-related gun injuries are those having the fewest gun restrictions. Many of today's tossed-about statistics come from carefully-planned street surveys, not studies, and none come from Oregon where current laws are appropriate and working. We are not California and do not want to be.

If you take time for this important step you will see what I see: (1) most criminals are perfectly sane and the 'one thing' keeping them cautious and 'at-bay' is they do not know if their prey is armed or if someone nearby is armed, and (2) when criminals know guns are legal for law abiding citizens to keep and bear, they do not know which people have them and therefore they cannot strike people and homes and businesses at their whim knowing their prey is disarmed or that defense guns are locked. It can be said the 'detente effect' is what keeps our neighborhoods safe from most criminals.

Also, do not make 'prey' of law abiding citizens by unconstitutionally requiring everyone to lock their home defense guns because criminals will know they can invade before a homeowner can react and unlock their gun. We have a God given right to defend ourselves and our families without being infringed from any source for any reason, and this makes sense because our police cannot be on our doorstep for many minutes to help us survive the attack. So before criminals have time to invade our homes and businesses, please enable the police and courts to convict and jail actual criminals and leave 'we the people' free to elect our own God-given choices, including the choices we ourselves make to protect our children and our property.

I hope to stop-in and shake your hand one day but in the meantime let me say a sincere 'thank you' for your time and also for your hard work on all our behalf.

Respectfully and Sincerely,

Michael Morgan
Multnomah County Citizen and Voter