



## California Rifle and Pistol Association, Inc.

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February 1, 2010

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CITY OF OAKLAND  
CITY COUNCILMEMBERS  
1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612  
**VIA OVERNIGHT MAIL**

City Clerk  
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK  
CITY OF OAKLAND  
1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Floors  
Oakland, CA 94612  
**VIA OVERNIGHT MAIL**

**Re: Gun Safety and Violence Prevention Programs Available**

Honorable Councilmembers:

We write on behalf of the California Rifle and Pistol Association's (CRPA) thousands of members throughout California to make you aware of gun violence prevention programs available to you.

CRPA was founded in 1875, and is dedicated to preserving and defending the rights of law-abiding citizens to responsibly use firearms for self-defense and the defense of their loved ones, for sport, and for all other legal activities. CRPA's members include law enforcement officers, prosecutors, professionals, firearm experts, the general public, and loving parents. On behalf of its 65,000 members, CRPA has always worked to reduce the criminal misuse of firearms and firearms accidents while actively promoting and organizing the competitive shooting sports and Olympic training programs in California. Many CRPA competitors are among the best in the world. CRPA is a California non profit association and is independently directed by its own Board of Directors. CRPA instructors have been teaching safe and responsible firearms ownership to those who choose to own or use a gun for sport or self-defense for over 125 years.

Some local governments are being solicited by gun control advocacy groups to adopt ill-conceived local gun control ordinances. We understand that two such ordinances are currently being considered by the Oakland City Council: 1) a firearm/ammunition dealer regulation; and 2) a duty to report lost or stolen firearms within 48 hours. These ordinances do nothing to reduce violence and gun crime. Instead of adopting ineffective and misguided ordinances that only affect the rights of law-abiding gun owners and place undue burdens on legal businesses, CRPA asks you to direct your efforts towards enforcement of existing federal and state laws in your city, and to consider implementing any of the many programs listed below. These programs are sponsored by the firearms industry, government agencies, and groups such as CRPA. These effective programs promote safety while respecting the civil rights of your residents.

**A. Industry Partnership and Cooperation with Law Enforcement**

The firearms industry's trade associations have for years been sponsoring programs to fight gun violence and accidents. They partner with the ATF and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) on a number of effective programs that assist law enforcement in combating the misuse of firearms by criminals.

This partnership with ATF has included joining with the FBI to sponsor firearms dealer education seminars across the county in the past few years. These continuing education seminars have been attended by thousands of dealers and their employees, and have focused on providing guidance and education on the complex regulations governing the sale and transfer of firearms. Attendees learn what they need to do to pass ATF inspections with flying colors, avoid and deter illegal straw purchases, prevent a "smash and grab" burglary of their store and much more.

**B. Education Programs**

Through the SHOT (Shooting, Hunting and Outdoor Trade) University, the firearms industry has worked with ATF to provide education and training to hundreds of firearms dealers. NSSF grants free space at its trade show, the largest of its kind with more than 40,000 visitors and 2,000 exhibitors, to both the ATF and FBI so that dealers can dialogue with them. In addition, during the trade show, free dealer education seminars are conducted over several days. ATF and the FBI put on many of the best-attended seminars.

For the general public, *Firearms Safety Depends on You*, is a video covering a wide range of firearm safety topics designed especially for new gun owners. For more information about this and other education programs, please visit: [www.firearmssafetyeducationalfoundation.org](http://www.firearmssafetyeducationalfoundation.org).

**C. "Don't Lie for the Other Guy" Program**

There are many ways criminals obtain firearms. They steal them; they rob gun stores; and sometimes they convince a family member, friend or acquaintance—someone who can pass the required background check—to purchase the firearm for them by lying on the required paperwork and claiming they are the "actual buyer." This is called a straw purchase; and it is illegal. In response, NSSF and ATF developed an award-winning program, now in use by firearm dealers throughout California, to educate gun dealers on how to be better able to detect and prevent illegal straw purchases. The program airs public service announcements to raise awareness in the general public that purchasing a firearm for someone else is a serious crime. Through the program, called *Don't Lie for the Other Guy*, NSSF has provided more than 15,000

gun stores throughout the United States with a dealer education kit that includes a training video. Jointly funded by the industry and a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, *Don't Lie for the Other Guy* has been praised by U.S. Attorneys and called by the ATF "vital" and "an important tool for ATF as we pursue our mission of preventing terrorism, reducing violent crime and protecting the public." For more information, visit [www.dontlie.org](http://www.dontlie.org).

#### **D. Project ChildSafe**

Industry trade associations have worked with many of your local colleagues on programs such as the award-winning *Project ChildSafe*, the largest and most comprehensive firearms safety education program in the nation, responsible for distributing more than 35 million firearms safety kits with free gun locks in all 50 states, including in many California cities.

For information on these and other programs aimed at reducing the misuse of firearms, preventing firearms accidents and promoting firearms safety, please visit the National Shooting Sports Foundation on Firearms Safety website: [www.nssf.org](http://www.nssf.org).

#### **E. CRPA Publications**

CRPA instructors have been teaching safe and responsible firearms ownership to those who choose to own a gun for sport or self-defense for over 125 years. In addition to public service announcements, CRPA has a variety of effective crime prevention and gun safety programs available. These include informational brochures such as CRPA's *Summary of California Gun Laws & Basic Safety Rules*, civilian gun safety, and firearm education classes.

All gun safety programs emphasize the four cardinal rules of firearm safety: 1. Always treat all firearms as if they were loaded. 2. Never allow the muzzle of your firearm to point at anything you do not intend to shoot. 3. Keep your finger off the trigger until your sights are aligned with the target and you are ready to shoot. 4. Be sure of your target and its surroundings.

These CRPA supported efforts have been instrumental in bringing the firearm criminal misuse rate down and *the accident rate in America to its lowest level ever!* If everyone knew the four basis rules of gun safety, accidents might well be eliminated entirely. We hope you will consider helping to get this message out to work toward that goal. For more information, visit [www.crpa.org](http://www.crpa.org).

#### **F. Child Gun Safety Programs**

The award-winning *Eddie Eagle Gun Safe* program teaches kids to stay away from guns. See [www.eaglepak.org](http://www.eaglepak.org).

*McGruff on Gun Safety*, is an educational video program for nationwide elementary school distribution featuring the well-known safety character, McGruff ® The Crime Dog. See [www.firearmssafetyeducationalfoundation.org](http://www.firearmssafetyeducationalfoundation.org).

"*It's Your Call: Playing It Safe Around Guns*," is a program for students in grades 6-9 designed to prevent firearms misuse by helping students learn how to respond when friends suggest irresponsible or unsafe behavior around firearms. Information is available at: [www.firearmssafetyeducationalfoundation.org](http://www.firearmssafetyeducationalfoundation.org).

**G. Personal Safety and Awareness Classes**

"*Refuse to Be a Victim*" classes teach a variety of personal safety techniques. See [www.nrahq.org/safety/rtbav](http://www.nrahq.org/safety/rtbav).

**H. Violence Prevention Programs**

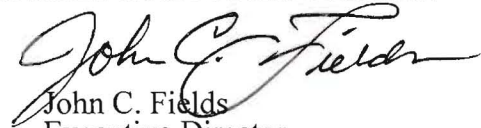
*Operation Ceasefire* is a strategic crime fighting alliance between police and gun dealers. For more information, see: [http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/pubs/gun\\_violence/profile21.html](http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/pubs/gun_violence/profile21.html).

Despite the fact that violent crime in the United States has fallen dramatically since the mid-1990s and is now at its lowest levels in decades—the firearms industry and advocacy groups like CRPA remain committed to continuing cooperative efforts with law enforcement to assist it in its battle to combat the criminal misuse of firearms. These efforts have proven successful across the nation, including many cities in California where they are currently used.

All law-abiding Americans share the goal of further reducing firearm related crime; however, ordinances requiring lost or stolen firearms to be reported within 48 hours, and imposing a complicated and costly compliance regime on firearm and ammunition vendors are not only ineffective, but convert otherwise law-abiding people into criminals. To achieve our common goal of reducing gun related crime, the path forward remains one of cooperation and communication. We stand ready to work with you. Will you work with us? We welcome your call.

Sincerely,

**CALIFORNIA RIFLE & PISTOL ASSOCIATION**



John C. Fields  
Executive Director