



NEW JERSEY LEGISLATURE
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July 10, 2020

Colonel Patrick J. Callahan, Superintendent
Division of New Jersey State Police
PO Box 7068
West Trenton, NJ 08628

Dear Colonel Callahan:

It has come to our attention through constituent inquiries that there are problems with the current system of attaining Firearms Identification cards (FID's) and permits to purchase handguns (pistol permits) as well as problems concerning the actual purchasing of firearms because of the State Police acting as the Point of Contact under the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS).

Obviously, you cannot administratively change what is statutorily required in order to purchase firearms legally in New Jersey. However, we have been receiving numerous complaints regarding the delays and the time it is taking for a resident's FID card or pistol permit to be processed.

We ask that you declare the State Police Firearms Unit and the Troopers and other employees assigned there as essential during the emergency and they should not be part of any furlough plan. If this still does not ensure that background checks are started in timely fashion and FID's and pistol permits are not done within 30 days, the State Police should either retain retired Troopers to assist in the process or hire confidential employees or private contractors to do so.

In addition, once background checks are completed and final approval given, Troopers at the barracks level should have the ability to print FID's and pistol permits there with your electronic signature. When someone goes to Motor Vehicle for a driver's license, the local agency is able to print driver's licenses after the permission is granted from Trenton - you would think local Troopers could do the same.

We were also advised that the State's supply of the actual multi-carbon pistol permit form is being depleted and not promptly replaced. If this is true, what is the plan for immediate replenishment?

We also call for the State Police to be removed as the Point of Contact under the NICS, so federally licensed firearm dealers can contact NICS directly, resulting in 24 hour a day, seven day a week service. This will result in a more efficient instant background check system and allow more Troopers in the Firearms Unit to be processing FID's and pistol permits.

Finally, the State Police should work with legislators knowledgeable about owning firearms in New Jersey to streamline our statutes as to protect an individual's Second Amendment rights while ensuring we keep firearms out of the hands of criminals. If you have suggestions on making the system fairer to law-abiding gun owners, we are all ears.

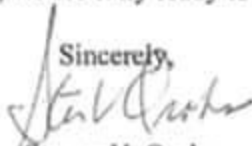
We have already sponsored several bills that would relieve the State Police from processing all FID's and pistol permits from rural patrol towns and facilitate their issuance in a more timely fashion:

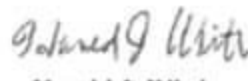
A133/S2119 Authorizes chiefs of part-time municipal police forces to issue firearms ID cards and handgun purchase permits.

A4054/S459 Allows county sheriffs to issue firearms identification cards and permits to purchase handguns; authorizes county sheriffs to accept applications for permits to carry handguns.

Thank you for your kind consideration and review. If you feel there is anything we can do to effectuate improvements, we are fully ready to assist.


F. Parker Space
Assemblyman

Sincerely,

Steven V. Oroho
Senator


Harold J. Wirths
Assemblyman