



U.S. Congressman Duncan Hunter

November 1, 2017

The Honorable William D. Gore
Sheriff, County of San Diego
PO Box 939062
San Diego, CA 92193-9062

Dear Sheriff Gore:

I am a firm believer in federal government not becoming involved with local issues. I felt obligated, however, to reach out to you on behalf of my constituents regarding a matter of great importance. I am a proud member of the San Diego County Gun Owners (SDCGO) and in a recent meeting with them to gain additional perspective on some federal issues, we discussed the Concealed Carry Weapon (CCW) permit process here in San Diego County. I discovered there are only approximately 1,500 active CCWs in a county of just under 3.5 million. While I recognize that raw data does not always provide a complete representation, I do find these numbers troubling.

Family protection is a fundamental issue both to my constituents and to me. I have always been a vocal supporter of our 2nd Amendment and, throughout my career, both in the Marine Corps and in Congress, I have worked to defend the freedoms of every American. In this spirit, I reviewed the process by which an average citizen of San Diego County would apply for and obtain a CCW to protect his or her self and family. The fact of the matter is that it is extremely difficult for most law-abiding, sane, and trained people in San Diego to obtain a CCW for self-protection outside of their homes.

For example, on the Sheriff's Department website, I found the description of the "good cause" statement required in the application process to be confusing. This section does not make clear what specific information is required in order for an applicant to submit an appropriate statement. The description provided does not answer the very basic questions of who and how one would qualify in order to obtain a CCW permit. Consequently, many responsible citizens who would otherwise qualify for a permit have trouble in successfully navigating this important portion of the process. It is for this reason that I am writing to request that you incorporate some changes with the overall goal to have clear and direct procedures outlined so applicants can be confident in participating in an objective application process.

As you know, for the last two years, the SDCGO have been relentless supporters of positive change to the CCW policy in San Diego County and I learned that you organized a meeting to address the issue. It is my understanding that this effort resulted in bringing about a

minor change to the process. This is a good first step and I appreciate your availability and willingness to respond to responsible and engaged citizens in our community. This also represents an opportunity. To better meet the needs of law-abiding, sane, and trained San Diegans who want the choice of self-defense outside the home, I encourage you to utilize the authority granted to you by the State of California to make your "good cause" policy inclusive and the procedures associated with this process more understandable and easy to follow.

Sheriff Gore, we are all grateful for the service and sacrifice of your entire department in keeping San Diego County safe. You are in a unique position to create a policy that rewards responsibility while, at the same time, also enabling our most valuable members of San Diego County to protect themselves and their communities. I encourage you to work with SDCGO to make the necessary changes to your policy in the name of better public safety. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration of this important issue. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

Duncan Hunter
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Duncan Hunter", is written over the typed name and title. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a long, sweeping tail.