

A REPORT FROM OUR PEACEMAKING COMMITTEE: PEACEMAKING RALLY ON GUN CONTROL

Recently members of our peacemaking committee joined with members of numerous Chester churches and other community organizations in a peacemaking rally held at the Chester Student Center. Discussion focused on the problems caused by the proliferation of hand guns available to anyone who has the money to purchase them. In 2008 there were 28 murders in the city of Chester. This is three times the rate (proportionate to the population) of the city of Philadelphia. In addition, there were close to 100 robberies and assaults involving weapons. Gun lobbies thus far have been successful in blocking any meaningful legislation restricting the number or types of weapons readily available for retail purchase. Wal-Mart, the largest national seller of firearms, has proposed a reasonable code which is at this point strictly voluntary because the legislatures that have tried to enact such a bill have met with little success. The code is as follows:

Responsible Firearms Retailer Partnership: a 10 Point Voluntary Code

1. **Videotaping the Point of Sale for All Firearms Transactions.** Participating retailers will videotape the point of sale of all firearms transactions and maintain videos for six months to deter illegal purchases and monitor employees.
2. **Computerized Crime Gun Trace Log and Alert System.** Mayors against illegal guns will develop a computerized system that participating retailers will implement over time to log crime gun traces relating to the retailer. Once the program is in place, if a customer who has a prior trace at that retailer attempts to purchase a firearm, the sale will be electronically flagged. The retailer would have discretion to proceed with the sale or stop the sale.
3. **Purchaser Declaration.** For sales flagged by the trace alert system, participating retailers will ask purchasers to fill out a declaration indicating that they meet the legal requirements to purchase a firearm.
4. **Deterring Fake IDs.** Participating retailers will only accept valid federal– or state-issued picture IDs as primary identification. Retailers will utilize additional ID checking mechanisms.
5. **Consistent Visible Signage.** Participating retailers will post signage created by the Responsible Firearms Retailer Partnership to alert customers of their legal responsibilities at the point of sale.
6. **Employee Background Checks.** Participating retailers will conduct criminal background checks on all employees selling or handling firearms.
7. **Employee Responsibility Training.** Participating retailers will participate in an employee responsibility training program focused on deterring illegal purchasers. The Responsible Firearms Retailer Partnership will create an online system based on Wal-Mart’s training program.
8. **Inventory Checking.** Participating retailers will conduct daily and quarterly audits. Guidelines will be based on Wal-Mart’s existing audit procedures.
9. **No Sales Without Background Check Results.** Participating retailers would prohibit sales based on “default proceeds,” which are permitted by law when background check has not returned a result within 3 days.
10. **Securing Firearms.** Participating retailers will maintain firearms kept in customer accessible areas in locked cases or locked racks.

*We seek your support for these changes to our state regulations designed to restrict the unlimited access to weapons by criminals, youth, and the mentally ill. We believe that this will save lives.
Contact information for local legislators can be found on the back of this flyer.*

Local Representatives Include:

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Local Senators Include:

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to determine which representative serves your district.*