

Bob Mollette
3rd Ward Councilman

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January 15, 2006

Dave LaCourse
Executive Field Officer
National Rifle Association of America
Institute for Legislative Action
P.O. Box 123
Canajoharie, NY 13317

Re: **City of Portsmouth Gun Registration Ordinance #705.30**

Dear Mr. LaCourse,

I have enclosed a copy of an article, "**NRA: City should ease restrictions**", for your review which was published by our local newspaper, Portsmouth Daily Times (PDT), on Sunday January 15, 2006. Please note the highlighted comment, "*We use the gun registration as a resource," Horner said "Say for example, a convicted felon purchases a firearm. **Obviously, no one would catch it.** As we receive the cards, we can look at them and see that this person is a convicted felon."*

I wish to repeal the gun registration ordinance. I am surprised our local firearm dealers do not currently have the available resources to avoid selling a firearm to a convicted felon. I am seeking options or suggestions for ways to protect citizens' rights and provide security for citizens and law enforcement. It has been my belief the current federal gun registration laws manages the identification of criminals and gun purchases.

Thank you in advance for your help and feel free to contact me with additional information or questions.

Respectfully,



Bob Mollette, 3rd Ward Council

rwm

cc: w/no attachments

Harold T. Pack, Concerned Citizen Representative
David W. Kuhn, Solicitor
Charles Horner, Chief of Police
Jim Kalb, Mayor
Jo Ann Aeh, City Clerk (Record)
Council (5)

NRA: City should ease restrictions

By JEFF BARRON

PDT Staff Writer

Saturday, January 14, 2006 11:53 PM EST

Even though the National Rifle Association said the city should scrap an ordinance mandating gun registration, Police Chief Charles Horner said that is a bad idea.

“After speaking to my investigators, we clearly don't want this ordinance repealed,” he said. “We have a right as a home-rule city to require gun registration.”

Ordinance 705-30 calls for anyone selling a gun to write down information about the buyer on an index card and submit it to the police.

The ordinance was passed in 1975.

But at Portsmouth City Councilman Bob Mollette's request, the NRA examined it and said the ordinance:

€ Is duplicative, those buying firearms are already subject to an instant criminal background check;

€ Has not effectively stopped crime; and

€ Ties up valuable time and resources on all levels.

“The (Institute for Legislative Action) prefers to see consistency in state gun laws, with state preemption providing one set of uniform rules for all to follow and easily understand,” NRA Executive Field Officer Dave LaCourse said in a letter to Mollette.

In a letter to Solicitor David Kuhn, Mollette said it may be difficult to enforce the ordinance and it may hurt local gun dealers because of decreased sales.

But Horner said repealing the ordinance would not be in the residents' best interest and would be detrimental to police officers. He has asked City Council not to repeal or amend the ordinance.

“We use the gun registration as a resource,” Horner said. “Say for example, a convicted felon purchases a firearm. Obviously, no one would catch it. As we receive the cards, we can look at them and see that this person is a convicted felon.”

Horner said the information would provide probable cause to obtain a search warrant and take the gun from the felon.

The cards also help police recover stolen guns because the serial number and purchase date are printed on the cards, he said.