50th KZGN News Talking Points Editorial

Should you have to wait to purchase a gun when you need it for self-defense?

But first, a couple comments received about the last editorial titled: Should elected officials be forced to participate in internet social media sites? Mayor Breeden offered the following: I think "be forced" is the wrong approach. Can they, should they, is more appropriate. However if this is the sole source of communication, there is a very strong disconnect with many other voters. Dan wrote: I concur on not forcing participation. However to treat it with disdain from the dais is not appropriate either, which happened on several occasions.

To the Mayor: I want to thank you for participating. Perhaps you could encourage your councilmembers to do so also. To Dan, I agree with you. Finally, I don’t think trying to force anyone to use internet social media would work. Higher levels of elected offices use them without even thinking about it. Our local officials should do the same. Not only should they happily accept public comment, they should seek it out where the public is discussing things. After all, it’s about engaging the public, and providing information to the public. The internet is another means of communication with the public.

Now on with today’s editorial: Should you have to wait to purchase a gun when you need it for self-defense? Here in California, we have a 10-day waiting period when purchasing a gun. While most of the country has an instant check system, here in California, and a couple of other states, they have procedures that slow down a person’s ability to exercise their constitutional right to bear arms.

To start this editorial, I need to report this breaking story from New Jersey. Carol Bowne a New Jersey woman, knew her best shot at defending herself from a violent ex was a gun, and not a piece of paper. It was paperwork that left her unprotected when Michael Eitel showed up at her New Jersey home last week and stabbed her to death, say second amendment advocates, who charge local police routinely sit on firearms applications they are supposed to rule on within 30 days.  Bowne, 39, had a restraining order against Eitel when he killed her in her driveway last Wednesday. She was still waiting for Berlin Township police chief Leonard check to approve the gun permit she had applied for on April 21. Tragically, she had gone to the Township police department just two days before her death to check on the status of her languishing application. In another indication of her fear of Eitel, Bowne had recently installed surveillance cameras around her home, and the equipment recorded the 45-year-old ex-con attacking her as she arrived home and got out of her car. She should have been granted that permit in a timely matter, especially given her status as a domestic violence victim. Carol would have qualified for a permit since she was attacked; only now it’s too late. New Jersey's gun laws are among the nation's strictest, but law-abiding citizens are eligible to purchase and possess handguns after filling out forms available at their local police stations, submitting to a background check on any possible criminal history or mental health issues, giving fingerprints and paying a fee.

Once those steps are taken, local police conduct a 14-point investigation and the chief is supposed to approve or deny for cause within 30 days.

That’s the news from New Jersey. You may ask what does that have to do with California? Here in California, we don’t have the requirement that a person has to apply for a permit “to purchase” a gun. Here in California we only have to do a background check to purchase. However, connected to that background check is a 10-day “cooling off period”. Even if you can legally buy a gun, you still have to wait 10 more days. The cooling off period is used to stop a person that may in a rage decide they want to kill someone. On the reverse of that is the example from the New Jersey woman. She needed a gun now to protect herself. She was denied that constitutional right by an anti-gun government. Here in California, there was a court case brought against the state challenging the 10-day cooling off period. The argument was that if a person already has a gun, then there was no need to go out in a rage, go to a store, buy a gun and then return to use it against someone. You already own a gun, a 10-day cooling off period was ridiculous. The courts agreed with the NRA and struck down the law. However, the California attorney general decided under political ideology pressure to appeal the decision. So, that is where we are now, waiting for the appeals court decision. The process the New Jersey woman had to go through to get a permit to just purchase is virtually the process we go through here in California to obtain a conceal carry weapons permit. Anti-gun advocates argue that women are more likely to have a gun they have taken away from them and it then being used on them. The anti-gun position is that it’s better to leave a woman with no chance to defend herself to leave her totally without any defense. Oh wait, she can call the police for help. The woman in New Jersey that just pulled into her driveway, where the ex was in hiding until she got out of the car, only then, she being faced with him before her holding a knife, that she had time to get her phone out and call police for help. Does everyone understand how stupid the argument is that the police will be there when we need them? This is not a knock against the police. The police are there to protect and serve. But they can’t be everywhere, all the time. It comes down to our constitutional right to own a firearm. We don’t have to have a reason, to purchase. However, having to go through a background check is totally right. We want to make sure bad or mentally ill people don’t get guns. But once a background check is done, and a person is found ok to purchase, then they should be allowed to take possession of the gun without delay. As a gun dealer myself, the background check system works. An instant check system works fine in almost all the other states. It would work here to if California would just get off their anti-gun agenda. Waiting periods and permit processes are nothing more than an anti-gun government trying to stop people from exercising their constitution right to gun ownership.

In conclusion, let Sacramento know that you support backgrounds checks to purchase a gun. But the 10-day cooling off period provides no protection for a person under threat to their life. Unless they want to provide round the clock police protection for every person that has a restraining order against someone. That won’t happen. So the 10 day wait period has to go away.

I’m Tom Wiknich, and that’s what I think. I’d like to know what you think. If you have any comments about this editorial, or would like to discuss or recommend a topic, I’d like to hear from you. Please email them to info@kzgn.net.