
Dargan Fields Angry Phone Calls Over Bill To Make Gun Permits Public

13 messages

Rich Burgess <rich@ctcarry.com>

Sat, Jan 5, 2013 at 9:36 AM

To: Christine Stuart <christine@ctnewsjunkie.com>

Ms. Stuart,
I have a feeling you knew I would be in touch this morning.

I am referring to this article:

http://www.ctnewsjunkie.com/ctnj.php/archives/entry/dargan_fields_angry_phone_calls/

The title suggest there are 'angry' phone calls but does not cite them. More alarmingly, the article states:

"When people call and leave threatening messages he calls them back."

But then the article goes on to not include any examples of 'threatening' messages and does not indicate any law enforcement investigations involving the threatening of a public official.

In fact:

"But he said he hasn't felt compelled to call any police officers to inform them of the phone messages"

Do 'threatening messages' exist or not? You say you listened to an 'angry call', but then quote the message where it is not threatening (or even angry sounding) in any way.

I think this is a pretty grave issue. If there is a legislative representative being 'threatened', action must be taken. If Rep Dargan wants to talk about gun owners and public safety, how can he know of a potentially violent or imbalanced (potential) gun owner and not alert authorities?

If no threatening messages can be produced or cited, I think this article has some serious problems and I think we have a very serious issue.

Please explain.

Thanks,

Rich Burgess
President

Connecticut Carry, Inc

Ph: [203.208.9577](tel:203.208.9577)

<http://ctcarry.com>

Rich Burgess <rich@ctcarry.com>

Mon, Jan 7, 2013 at 12:01 PM

To: Christine Stuart <christine@ctnewsjunkie.com>

Ms. Stuart,
Any word on this?

-Rich B
[Quoted text hidden]

Christine Stuart <ctnewsjunkie@gmail.com>
To: Rich Burgess <rich@ctcarry.com>

Mon, Jan 7, 2013 at 12:07 PM

I was at my mother-in-laws bedside all weekend. I also think your beef is with Dargan and not me. You should try calling him if you don't appreciate how he characterized the calls. I'm sure he'd be happy to speak with you. His number is publicly listed. But here it is in case you don't have it: [203-937-1985](tel:203-937-1985)

[Quoted text hidden]

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Christine Stuart

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Rich Burgess <rich@ctcarry.com>
To: Christine Stuart <ctnewsjunkie@gmail.com>

Mon, Jan 7, 2013 at 12:24 PM

Ms. Stuart,

I am sorry to hear about your mother-in-law, I appreciate your response this morning.

I think I might have 'beef' with Representative Dargan, but that has very little to do with my email.

You wrote:

"Rep. Stephen Dargan of West Haven doesn't back down from a fight. When people call and leave threatening messages he calls them back"

This is not a quote you are attributing to him. While he may have used the word 'threatening', and I would have no way of knowing that since it is not in the article and you have not furnished anything to that effect, you are the one characterizing them as such.

"Dargan let CTNewsJunkie listen to one of the angry calls from a gun enthusiast"

This is also your writing, and not a quote, and you characterize the call as 'angry', but I cannot see anything in your quote that could be reasonably qualified as 'angry'. Was this the most 'angry' and 'threatening' message left with Rep Dargan?

I would agree that if my 'beef' was with a quote from Dargan that I should take that up with Dargan. If you want to give me the direct quotes from Dargan, or a recording of an interview, I would be happy to question him on it. But as I see it, these are your words and you are responsible for the integrity of your articles. I cannot hold Rep Dargan responsible for words he is not even quoted on.

I would think you should be able to agree that I have been nothing if not fair and reasonable with you about this issue and several other issues in the past, lets keep this working relationship on the same path. Your readers deserve the truth, and you have an obligation to provide it. If there are threats, lets see the proof. Otherwise I think a retraction is in order.

Thank you,
Rich Burgess
President

Connecticut Carry, Inc

Ph: [203.208.9577](tel:203.208.9577)

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Christine Stuart <ctnewsjunkie@gmail.com>
To: Rich Burgess <rich@ctcarry.com>

Mon, Jan 7, 2013 at 12:46 PM

Then I should have used quotes because that's how he described the calls.

Jl also did not put them in quotes.

HARTFORD — A legislative chairman's proposal to make public the names and addresses of state residents who have pistol permits has drawn a sharp reaction, including profanity-filled messages on his home phone, he said Friday.

"I've gotten some weird ones, but hey, it's freedom of speech," said Rep. Stephen D. Dargan, co-chairman of the Public Safety and Security Committee.

The bill submitted by Dargan, D-West Haven, would reverse a 1994 law that conceals from public disclosure the names and addresses of gun permit holders — exempting the information from freedom-of-information laws.

His proposal came after the Journal News, a newspaper in New York City's northern suburbs, posted a searchable map on its website last month showing the names and addresses of pistol permit holders in Westchester and Rockland counties.

Dargan said he wanted to add the issue to the conversation as lawmakers consider responses to the Dec. 14 massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown.

"I've been listening to this debate for the last few weeks, so I figured, here's a good one that will get this conversation going," he said.

His reasoning: The information was public before 1994, and it's always controversial when information that had been publicly available is given an exemption from freedom of information laws.

Now critics are ringing Dargan's phone off the hook, he said. His home phone number is public. He said he had received about 70 angry messages by 2 p.m. Friday, but hadn't felt the need to call police to report any threats.

Instead, Dargan is engaging those who call — even if they leave an angry message without their number.

"A lot of them don't leave a return number. But like everything else that's public, I've got a caller ID," he said. "I call them back, absolutely. I talk to them for a little while. I get them to calm down."

The state issues pistol permits to allow residents to buy and carry revolvers and handguns. There are 179,092 valid pistol permits, according to the state Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection. A person does not have to have a pistol permit to buy a shotgun or rifle in Connecticut, but must pass a federal background check.

Bob Crook, a lobbyist for the Coalition of Connecticut Sportsmen, said Friday that his group will oppose any effort to make pistol permit holders' names and addresses public.

"It's a shopping list for criminals," Crook said. Some, he said, would target homes with guns to steal them. Others would avoid the homes with guns.

Crook also warned that a public list of permit holders would expose gun owners to harassment.

"When something like Sandy Hook occurs there's a lot of animosity towards anyone who has a gun," he said.

Rich Burgess <rich@ctcarry.com>

Mon, Jan 7, 2013 at 1:11 PM

To: Christine Stuart <ctnewsjunkie@gmail.com>

I don't see where the quoted article opines that the calls were 'threatening'. Profanity-filled, ok. Strong emotions provoke strong words and one person's 'profanity' is another person's greeting. That hardly even seems unexpected.

"He said he had received about 70 angry messages by 2 p.m. Friday, but hadn't felt the need to call police to report any threats."

This may not be a direct quote, but it is an indirect quote that is not in the 'voice' of the writer. It is also worth nothing that, unlike your article, it does not say he had any 'threatening messages'. It actually seems to say quite the opposite.

Your citation of this article actually furthers my concern about your article.

Do you have evidence of the threatening messages or are you relying on a *possible* quote? Are you able to provide Rep Dargan's quotes or interview?

Rich Burgess
President

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