

# CONNECTICUT CARRY, INC

229 BRANFORD RD UNIT 423 NORTH BRANFORD, CT 06471

1/30/2012

President  
Connecticut Carry, Inc  
229 Branford Rd Unit 423 North Branford, CT 06471

Auditors of Public Accounts  
20 Trinity Street  
Hartford, CT 06106-1628

Dear Auditors of Public Accounts,

The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) has been entrusted by the legislature, and therefore the people, of the state of Connecticut to oversee the process of obtaining a pistol permit to purchase and/or carry a firearm in the state of Connecticut.

Article 1, Section 15 of the Connecticut Constitution reads:

*Every citizen has a right to bear arms in defense of himself and the state.*

It has come to our attention that the State Police Bureau of Identification (SPBI) has been stalling the administrative process of obtaining a pistol permit in the State of Connecticut.

This delay in processing the background checks that SPBI has a duty of completing is resulting in the violation of the human right to bear arms in our state. Citizens are not allowed to purchase, transfer or receive as a gift, a handgun until they have a Connecticut Pistol permit.

The State Police Bureau of Identification is improperly collecting fees from individuals who submit to fingerprinting by local issuing authorities. The law does not provide authority to charge an applicant for a Permit to Carry Pistols and Revolvers a \$50.00 fee for a State Criminal History Records Check when it is the local issuing authority that submits requests and receives same from the Connecticut State Police Bureau of Identification (SPBI).

This new \$50.00 fee was instituted on October 1, 2009 without the legislative authority required.

The Commissioner has currently received and is holding approximately 1,080 National Criminal History Records checks on most if not all applicants for Permits to Carry Pistols and Revolvers, and failed to send them upon receipt to the local issuing authority as mandated by Section 29-29 (c) of the Connecticut General Statutes.

## **Sec. 29-29. Information concerning criminal records of applicants for permits.**

(c) The local authority may, in its discretion, issue a temporary state permit before a national criminal history records

check relative to such applicant's record has been received. **Upon receipt of the results of such national criminal history records check, the commissioner shall send a copy of the results of such national criminal history records check to the local authority**, which shall inform the applicant and render a decision on the application within one week of the receipt of such results. If such results have not been received within eight weeks after a sufficient application for a permit has been made, the local authority shall inform the applicant of such delay, in writing. No temporary state permit shall be issued if the local authority has reason to believe the applicant has ever been convicted of a felony, or that any other condition exists for which the issuance of a permit for possession of a pistol or revolver is prohibited under state or federal law.

By law, the SPBI is required to send these background checks back to the local PDs 'upon receipt'. The SPBI is delaying background checks as far back as October 3<sup>rd</sup> from being sent back to the local issuing authorities even though they have cashed the \$50 checks that the applicants supplied with their permit applications.

Connecticut Carry asks the Auditors of Public Accounts to investigate the DESPP and the SPBI and determine what can be done to prevent this kind of gross abuse from happening in the future.

Connecticut Carry endeavors to be dedicated to advancing and protecting the fundamental civil rights of the men and women of Connecticut to keep and bear arms for self defense of themselves and the state as guaranteed by the United States Constitution and the Constitution of Connecticut.

Respectfully,



Richard Burgess  
President

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