

Dear Ms Diehl,

I am writing regarding the charter changes that Burlington is looking to enact. To give you some background about me. I am a career law enforcement officer with over 35 years as a police Officer. I have worked all phases of Law enforcement from Patrol Officer, Corporal, Sergeant, K-9, Tactical Officer and Investigator. I graduated from the VT and NH Police academy's and the FBI National Academy. I am currently employed by the Woodstock Police Department as a Patrol Officer.

I am writing regarding H 566,567,and 568.

Bill 566 regarding locked guns makes no sense and is unenforceable. The only way it will be enforced is after the fact when someone gets hurt. If a child is hurt due to a neglectful gun owner that person would most likely be charged with child neglect. I would rather see us educate children in school on the dangers improperly handle firearms can cause. There are programs available that teach children not to touch guns and to call an adult if they see one. It is also the parents responsibility to teach our children.

H568 regarding no fire3arms in a place that serves alcohol takes away our right to self defense when in public. It also violates VT Constitution Article 16 and the VT Sportsman bill of rights. Passing a law will not stop criminals from carrying a firearm, it will only effect law abiding gun owners. Most responsible gun owners know that alcohol and firearms don't mix. I carry both on and off duty. It would make me a criminal if I happened to enter a restaurant or bar in Burlington while carrying. I have not read about many firearm incidents in Burlington in bars or restaurants so why is a law needed? On the other hand how many motor vehicle crashes have occurred after people leave bars or clubs after drinking? We tried to outlaw alcohol and that doesn't work, so should we outlaw bars or vehicles to stop this?

H567 Giving law enforcement the power to seize property(firearms) at a domestic situation when firearms are present is a violation of the fourth amendment. I have responded to 100's of domestics during my career. If a threat or use of firearm was involved the firearm can be seized as evidence. If no threat was made but the victim feels they could be in danger they have the ability to get a relief from abuse order and ask the Court to authorize the seizure or dangerous weapons. But this order is issued by a judge giving an officer permission to take weapons. This is the way our Constitution works. It could be a slippery slope taking these rights away from the courts.

Thank you for your time and if you have any questions please let me know. I had planned on going to Montpelier for the hearing but I work the overnight shift and was a little tired to drive up. Would you read this to the legislators since I could not attend.

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