



LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF ILLINOIS

OAK PARK: WHISTLES VS. GUNS

A recent article in the *Chicago Tribune* reported that Village of Oak Park Police Chief Rick Tanksley hopes to revive the Whistle Stop Program. This is in response to a 46 percent increase in robberies over the past year, many of them armed. The idea of the Whistle Stop Program is to provide citizens with whistles in the hope that the shrillness of the whistles will scare off would be attackers and robbers.

Ironically, Oak Park has had a gun ban in effect for over 20 years. While it would appear that most of its' citizens are in compliance with the law, the spate of armed robberies proves that the ban and its \$1,000 to \$2,000 fine is no hindrance to criminals, and it also puts law abiding citizens in the village at a disadvantage to a robber armed with a gun. While the concept of a whistle to prevent crime may have some merit, it does not compare to the right to own and carry a weapon for self protection. We also find it interesting that the City of Chicago, with its history of street violence, also bans guns. It seems that the criminals did not get the memo on this.

Illinois and Wisconsin are the only two states which do not permit citizens to carry concealed weapons. With the U.S. Supreme Court decision in 2008 that struck down the Washington D.C. gun ban law and in effect bolstered the argument that the Second Amendment to the Constitution allows an individual to own a weapon, it is time for Illinois to join 48 other states and allow concealed carry so people can feel more safe. We fully support HB367, which creates the Family and Personal Protection Act and establishes statewide uniform standards for the issuance of permits to carry concealed firearms. We encourage everyone to contact their legislators in support of this bill.

Simply put, gun bans do not work. A person should feel safe in their homes, their cars, and while walking down the street. The United States, at various times in its' history, has attempted, through the law, to ban alcohol, gambling and drugs, and in each case this resulted in the emergence of a black market for these items with no discernible decrease in demand. The current war on drugs is a complete failure and wastes valuable law enforcement resources. A ban on guns only puts guns in the hands and pockets of criminals and takes them away from everyone else.

The Libertarian Party of Illinois is a political home for those who value honesty, fairness, respect, responsibility and compassion.

For
Immediate Release
3/10/09

Contact:
Kent McMillen
312/909-5861
PR@LPillinois.org