

# Legislators voice support for Second Amendment; NCSO announces update of business registry

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“There is not a single legislator in this room who opposes legislation that would attempt to keep illegal guns off our streets and out of the hands of criminals, but this legislation does not do that,” said Legislator Shawn Foti, co-chairman of the Niagara County Gun Owners’ Rights Advisory Panel. “Instead, this is legislation pushed by those who simply oppose the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding New Yorkers, and want to set up obstacles and hurdles that discourage people from exercising those rights.”

### Filicetti Responds

Niagara County Sheriff Michael Filicetti spoke out in support of the county resolution. He criticized the state on its latest gun control measures.

“Let me be clear that, from a law enforcement point of view, there is nothing in this state legislation that will make that our communities any safer,” Filicetti said. “Improving public safety means revisiting issues like bail reform, discovery reform, how we treat repeat juvenile offenders. Those are the issues that are impacting our neighborhoods, not legal gun ownership.”

Earlier, the NCSO announced formation of a new, updated business registry of private entities in the county that permit concealed carry.

According to <https://www.niagaracountysheriff.com/businessRegistry>, “In order to comply with NYS legislation, beginning on September 1, 2022, entities who manage or own private property will need to display a sign to allow concealed carry

pistol permit holders to carry on their premises. You can request a sign from the Niagara County Sheriff’s Office by filling out the business registry and selecting either yes or no. By selecting yes, a sign will be mailed to your business address. If you have previously registered your business through the registry but would like to request a sign, please re-register your business through the website and select yes to wanting to receive a sign.”

Commenting on his latest action, Filicetti said, “I have a lot of questions why I did the signs – concealed carry allowed at a business.

“A lot of people apparently weren’t aware of this law going into effect on Sept. 1. As a business owner, you had to expressly say, ‘Yes, I’m OK with you doing concealed carry in my business.’ It was just assumed, which is the way it should be. (But) the state got this backwards.

“It should be that it’s assumed that you could carry unless they say that you can’t,” he continued. “So, I want to get it out, to help the business owners, give them an opportunity to post these. Also to let gun owners know that there are businesses that are allowing you to carry.



“I support the Second Amendment, and I think it’s important that you’ve gone through all the hoops that were existing – to get your background check done, to get everything you needed to get done to get a pistol permit, to show you’re a law-abiding citizen and you’ve done that. Now we’re restricting essentially between the sensitive areas, which are pretty much between anything outside of your house.”

Under the new state law, the sensitive areas include, “theaters, any state-owned buildings, anything,” Filicetti said. “They’ve added a list that you’re not going to be able to comply with. And they went a step further. On top

of the sensitive areas, we’re having restricted areas, which are businesses, private property.

### 38,000 Pistol Permit Holders

“We have 38,000 pistol permit holders in this county. I wanted something to let them know that this has changed. I don’t think that businesses should have to put a sign up, but that bad part is, (it) is now the way this law’s written. I think it was intentional. The way it was written is it pits business owners against potential people who do not like them.

“I think this law was written intentionally to make it difficult for many carry people. I think this law was designed to discourage people from getting their pistol

permits, discourage them from keeping them under the new regulations, and them from carrying if you do.”

Filicetti said his main objective here is to protect the rights of the county’s gun owners. He added he feels the state’s latest action would likely be overturned on the federal level in the courts.

“Yes, I absolutely think sections of this new law are going to get overturned. If you read the (federal) judge’s brief, it absolutely spelled out a roadmap to who you need, who the right party is, and how you do it.

“I think there is a federal opinion out there (stating) the pieces of this are unconstitutional. So, I think you’re going to see this get an injunction, and there’s going to be some kind of overturn, which I agree with 100%. I am in opposition to this law.”

Filicetti went on to criticize what he described as a complete disregard of law enforcement by the State Legislature and governor when it comes to crafting New York’s gun laws.

“We in law enforcement have been asking for the last couple of years for changes in bail reform, less is more, raise the age, all these new legislations, but we’ve never had a seat at the table,” Filicetti said. “So, I have been asking for changes – law enforcement in general has been asking *SEE FILICETTI, continued on Page 19*

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