

Andrew J. Spano
County Executive

Lawrence S. Schwartz
Deputy County Executive
February 21, 2007

Hon. Vito J. Pinto
Legislator, Westchester County Board of Legislators
800 Michaelian Office Building
White Plains, New York 10601

Dear Legislator Pinto:

On behalf of the County Executive, I want to thank you for the time, energy and thorough discussion that you have allowed regarding the inclusion of legislation to reform the pistol permit issuing process in the 2007 state legislative program. I think this discussion has been a very important one in bringing much needed attention and focus to how pistol permits are issued in Westchester County. I also want to thank County Clerk Idoni, District Attorney DiFiore and Chief Administrative Judge Nicolai for their support in helping to bring reform to this issue.

However, recognizing that the legislative proposal continues to raise many questions, and in an effort to finalize the state legislative package, the County Executive requests that the proposal be removed at this time.

This request in no way should be misinterpreted that this administration is no longer interested in reforming the pistol permit licensing process. Nothing could be further from the truth. It is unfortunate that some individuals continue to believe that the present system is still effective and working, when many know for a fact that it is not.

The County Executive believes that the safety and security of Westchester residents demands that at a minimum, some incremental measure(s) be implemented to address the growing concern with the pistol licensing process in Westchester County. Due to the complex nature of the issues that need to be addressed and in conjunction with Chief Administrative Judge Frank Nicolai, we agree that it would be productive and helpful to establish a working group made up of representatives from the County Clerk, District Attorney, County Police Commissioner, the judiciary and representatives from the County Executive's office and the Board of Legislators, that would meet over the next 30 days to find acceptable solutions to improve the present system.

This state legislative proposal is in no way meant to penalize or complicate the process for responsible law abiding gun owners. Rather, the purpose of the legislation is to provide greater assurance to Westchester residents that every effort is being made to ensure that guns and gun permits, especially full-carry permits, never fall into the wrong hands.

I want to thank you in advance for your cooperation regarding this request.

Sincerely,


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