

June 7, 2013

To UT Gun Rights,

I sent out a GRAMA request to all the Sheriff depts. in Utah June 6th/7th in the AM. I received two calls this morning from two Sherriff dept heads.

The first was from James Tracy. He was certain that no correspondence was available from his dept on HB 76 or HB 76S1. He said that maybe only a few phone calls were made but they have no transcript of any dialogue.

He was concerned about this GRAMA request. He wanted to know why we wanted the information. I told him I want to know if the Sherriff had any communications that would shed light on their stance on HB 76. He said he was solidly for 2nd Amendment rights for citizens.

We talked for a little time and he was pretty certain no correspondence existed. I Told him that if he could find any I would like to have it. I also told him that a letter from him showing his support for HB 76 would be appreciated as well.

Not long after the first call I received another call from David Edmunds. He apparently is the President of the Utah Sheriffs' association.

We had a lengthy discussion. He was "disappointed" of my request and stated that it wouldn't get the results we were looking for. In fact the request itself would make other sheriffs uncomfortable with us and the results would not be what "we" wanted.

We discussed HB 76 and HB 76 S1. Edmunds said he supported the bill except he wanted a provision that would have citizens identify themselves and notify the officer that the citizen was carrying a weapon. He said he didn't want it "law" per se (?!), but citizens should identify that they have a weapon. (I don't see how you put a provision in the law without it being part of the law.)

I told him that that was nice, but not always an option. Some law enforcement like to keep a very tight hold on the situation and will not allow you to respond unless they specifically ask you to respond.

He said that was an exception. I said well we don't want to be in trouble for an exception either. I also spoke to him about putting on a jacket in the winter making a legal open carry now illegal concealed carry. He said that that concern was expressed. But he said that all they wanted was a provision to have citizens declare they have a weapon, but Rep. Green wouldn't budge on that. (So apparently no deal!)

Edmunds assured me that he was a constitutional speaker and knew it well and chastised me for "lecturing" him on it. Ha. This is because I told him that the right to bear arms "shall not be infringed".

It was rather obvious that Edmunds wanted me to drop the GRAMA request. He asked what I would do with the information I told him that we would publish it. I said that if it was in favor of our rights we would gladly make it known, but if it wasn't favorable to the rights of citizens we would publish that as well.

Edmunds expressed his concern that the phone conversation was being taped. I said it was not. (Although damn it I should have!)

The conversations were rather funny as both Tracy and Edmunds were rather defensive in their responses...as if they had plenty to hide, but were lying about it.

Edmunds was again insistent that he supported the citizens rights, but also admitted he and others were not satisfied that the provision to have citizens declare they had a weapon was not included in the bill. So on one hand he emphatically points out that he supports the citizens right to carry openly or concealed but that he doesn't support the bill because these provisions weren't included. Now being a redneck myself I had a hard time establishing whether or not he was or was not for the bill.

In my view since his provision wasn't included it seemed we was not for the bill! Unless no means yes and ...whatever.

In my opinion talking with both these individuals it seems they have something they are hiding. They were just too defensive to the point of almost groveling that I have nothing to find with my GRAMA request although he was quite interested what I planned on doing with the information should any arise.

Edmonds went off topic into a discussion such as "Do you think Felons should have the right to own weapons?" Well since I was having fun twisting his brain I answered why yes. Unless that right has removed from an individual by a jury of their peers. It would have been fun to see the expression on his face.

So after screwing with him a little I said look that is off topic and that isn't what HB 76 or HB 76 S1 is about. That set him back a little. I was starting to feel empathy for him.

I guess these guys aren't used to being challenged. Yes it is too bad I didn't have it recorded as their responses were rather humorous and unnecessarily defensive as if they were trying to hide a cookie they clearly had in their hand.

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