



Office of the Mayor  
Mike Caldwell

March 13, 2013

HB 76. Concealed Weapons Carry Amendments

Dear Governor:

Ogden City urges you to veto HB 76. This bill eliminates the long-standing statutory balance drawn with respect to concealed weapons. The current statutory scheme provides important protection and educational functions to the public, law enforcement, and concealed weapons carrier.

The concealed weapons permit system serves three important functions: (1) requires critical education on safety and lawful use of firearms, (2) allows police to know whether a driver pulled over might have a legitimately concealed weapon and thus avoid misunderstandings, (3) reduces the casual carrying of firearms by those who are not prepared for proper use or lawfully permitted to carry them.

HB 76 would eliminate the functions of the concealed carry system for everyone over 21 unless there is some other legal carry prohibition. Given this presumption, many persons will not have enough information to adequately assess whether they can lawfully carry, creating a trap for the unwary concealed- carrier. For example, an adult with a juvenile criminal record may assume incorrectly that he/she is not barred from concealed carry as an adult. Furthermore, a police officer who encounters such a person will not have access to the juvenile record that will allow them to ascertain whether they are lawfully concealed-carrying. Misunderstandings are bound to occur because this bill eliminates all educational and background check requirements.

HB 76 has been billed as necessary to carry out Second Amendment constitutional rights. Yet, concealed weapons laws, even those much more stringent than Utah's laws, have been upheld nationwide as constitutionally valid and reasonable. They prevent no person entitled to carry a concealed weapon from doing so, so long as they have a qualifying background check and meet educational requirements.

HB 76 makes our city, our citizens, and our law enforcement officers less safe. We strongly encourage you to veto it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mike Caldwell".

Mike Caldwell  
Mayor

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mike Ashment".

Mike Ashment  
Ogden City Police Chief