

OPEN CARRYING: Provocative Conduct, Dangerous Consequences

- Open Carry advocates seek to normalize the carrying of firearms in public places and restaurants. While open carriers argue that they are just "exercising their rights," the open carrying of firearms intimidates the public, wastes law enforcement resources, and creates opportunities for injury and death due to the accidental or intentional use of firearms.
- We believe this public display and flaunting of semi-automatic handgun weaponry puts restaurant employees and customers at risk of an accident or vigilante-type incident where innocent bystanders could get shot.
- We are calling upon CA businesses and retail establishments to adopt a gun-free policy and bar open and concealed carry of guns in their places of business. *They have a right to do this under private property/trespassing laws.*
- Displaying a lethal weapon in public (if it is not your job) is irresponsible and reckless. It is an act of intimidation.
- Handguns have one purpose, to kill or maim people and other living things. Society invests law enforcement with the authority to carry them because: a) we believe they are trained to use them to protect us, and b) law enforcement officers are held accountable for everything they do.
- Open carrying does not require a permit, unlike carrying a concealed firearm, for which the applicant must demonstrate responsibility and a need to their respective county sheriff. *Open carriers are essentially unknown, untrained, and unaccountable to anyone.*
- Claims that open carrying is needed for self-defense are not supported by research. Even when a gun is used in self-defense, which is rare, research shows that it is no more likely to reduce a person's chance of being injured during a crime than various other forms of protective action. Instead of improving safety, open carrying needlessly increases the likelihood that everyday interpersonal conflicts will turn into deadly shootouts.
- The CA Brady Campaign reminds families while a gun is often purchased with the intention of using it for self-defense, it is *4 times more likely* to be used in an unintentional shooting, *11 times more likely* to be used in an attempted or completed suicide, and *7 times more likely* to be used in a criminal assault or homicide. It is more than twice as likely that a woman will be attacked by her male intimate.
- *The Second Amendment does not confer a right to openly carry a firearm in public.* Because open carrying does not impact an individual's right to self-defense in the home --the core of the Second Amendment as interpreted in *District of Columbia v. Heller*– and because there are significant public safety reasons to justify prohibiting this dangerous activity, a ban on open carrying would not conflict with the Second Amendment.

AB 144 (Portantino) will prohibit openly carrying an unloaded handgun in public areas.

For more info: <http://bradycampaign.com/legislation/gunlobbybacked/opencarryguns>