
(EXTERNAL MESSAGE)Public comment meeting: Firearms Safety/Home Shooting Range Committee

From Marty Milkovic <martymilkovic@netscape.net>

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To The Members of the Firearms Safety/Home Shooting Range Committee,

I would like to thank all the members of the Committee for their good work in improving the safety of our community.

Full disclosure: I am a member of Town Council; however, I am not seeking reelection in November. As I will likely not be in office when your work concludes, I am writing as a private citizen.

On the morning of Friday, December 14, 2012, I was at a meeting in the Legislative Office Building in Hartford when an alert popped up on my phone about a shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown. My oldest grandson was a student there at the time, so I immediately searched for updates. Early reports stated that the principal and another adult had been killed, which slightly reduced my obvious concern. Still, I was deeply worried about the risk to my young grandson and the other students at his school. About an hour later, my daughter-in-law texted me to say that he had not been in school that day and was safe, much to my relief. It was only while driving to my office and listening to the radio that I learned 20 six- and seven-year-old students, along with six adult staff members, had been murdered. I was devastated. Even though my grandson was safe, it was an overwhelming catastrophe, and my mind kept turning to "what if" scenarios.

I admit that I am biased about guns in America. We have more guns than people ([source](#)). and one of the highest rates of gun deaths among developed nations ([source](#)).

To my neighbors who regard the Second Amendment's words as sacred — *"...the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed"* — I would also point to the first portion of the Amendment: *"A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State..."* Even our current conservative Supreme Court recognizes an individual's right to bear arms but also holds that this right is not unlimited ([source](#)).

Safety should be the primary consideration of any municipal ordinance you propose. I believe you can make a strong case for restricting firearm discharge in residential areas of a certain density, but I will leave it to the Committee's collective judgment to determine the best way to improve safety.

Again, thank you for your efforts.

Sincerely,

Marty Milkovic