

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION

RHONDA EZELL, JOSEPH I. BROWN,)	
WILLIAM HESPEN, ACTION TARGET, INC.,)	
SECOND AMENDMENT FOUNDATION,)	
INC., AND ILLINOIS STATE RIFLE)	Case No. 10 C 5135
ASSOCIATION,)	
)	Judge Virginia M. Kendall
Plaintiffs,)	
v.)	
)	
CITY OF CHICAGO,)	
)	
Defendant.)	

MEMORANDUM OPINION AND ORDER

Prior to the Supreme Court’s decision in *District of Columbia v. Heller*, 128 S.Ct. 2783, (2008), the City of Chicago (“City”) enforced a complete ban on the possession and use of handguns within its borders. In *McDonald v. City of Chicago*, 130 S. Ct. 3020 (2010), the Supreme Court extended its holding in *Heller* to the states and the City was required to draft a new ordinance that would comply with the holding that an individual’s Second Amendment right to possess a handgun in the home for self-defense was now applicable to the states. In response, the Chicago City Council determined that it would pass an ordinance that “provides for the reasonable regulation of firearms in compliance with the rulings of the Supreme Court, but still is effective in protecting the public from the potential deadly consequences of gun violence in our city.” (Prelim. Inj. Hr’g, Def. Exh. 1, Chicago Responsible Gun Ownership Ordinance.) Possession of firearms within the City is now allowed pursuant to the requirement that residents obtain a Chicago Firearms Permit (“CFP”). *See* Chi. Mun. Code § 8-20-110(a). The permit requires that each resident obtain an affidavit signed by

a firearms instructor showing that the applicant has completed a firearm training and safety course which includes four hours of classroom instruction and one hour of firing range training.

The problem for Plaintiffs is that the same ordinance prohibits the operation of any firing ranges within the City's borders. *See* Chi. Mun. Code § 8-20-280. Three individual residents, Rhonda Ezell, Joseph I. Brown, William Hesper, the Second Amendment Foundation, the Illinois State Rifle Association, and a company in the business of designing and building firing ranges, Action Target, Inc., filed suit alleging that their Constitutional rights were violated by requiring them to travel outside of the City's borders to obtain the one-hour of firing range training.

Six days after filing their Complaint, Plaintiffs moved for a temporary restraining order seeking to enjoin the City from enforcing the ordinance. Plaintiffs claim that their Second Amendment rights have been violated due to the firing range ban because they now must travel outside of the City limits in order to obtain their one-hour of range training in order to obtain their CFP and possess a firearm. They assert that the Second Amendment is violated by the City's ordinance in that it has linked possession with the firing range training, and as a result, by banning firing ranges within its borders, the City is, in effect, prohibiting their possession of firearms. They brought an emergency TRO on the theory that an amnesty provision within the ordinance expires today, October 12, 2010, and that they (both the individual plaintiffs and the organizations that represent other firearm owners) would not be able to complete the range training prior to that time. The amnesty provision within the ordinance applies to all residents who already possess firearms. *See* Chi. Mun. Code § 8-20-140(d)(2). Those individuals must also obtain a CFP for the firearms in their possession by that date in order to continue to possess them. Residents were notified of this requirement publicly on July 7, 2010. Plaintiffs conjecture that approximately several thousand

individuals possess firearms in the City and that the deadline therefore could not be met by all residents because no firing ranges exist within the City's borders. Plaintiffs seek to bring a mobile firing range into the City in order to aid its residents in meeting this amnesty deadline. Without this help, according to Plaintiffs, many residents will not be able to obtain their permits.

At that first TRO hearing, this Court held that the parties had not established irreparable harm and denied the motion. Plaintiffs at that time had failed to demonstrate that the individual defendants could not travel outside of the City to obtain range training within the remaining seven week period leading up to the amnesty deadline. The Court, however, provided the parties a period of time for expedited discovery, followed by a full briefing schedule on the preliminary injunction motion, and set a preliminary injunction hearing prior to the ordinance's deadline. The parties embarked on their discovery, returning occasionally to court to hammer out their discovery disputes.

Approximately three weeks after their first emergency TRO motion, Plaintiffs filed a second motion for a temporary restraining order on September 13, 2010, this time alleging that changed circumstances existed which required them to return to the Court seeking emergency relief prior to the Court's scheduled preliminary hearing. Specifically, Plaintiffs claimed that they now had a contract in place to bring in a mobile firing range and they had obtained a location on the south side of the City where the range could be placed in order for residents to obtain training at that location. This Court denied the second motion for TRO again for failure to meet the burden of irreparable harm and for failure to demonstrate that there was no adequate remedy at law. The Court informed Plaintiffs that the existence of a remedy for the alleged violation (the ability to bring in the mobile range) did not relieve them of the requirement to show that they were being irreparably harmed by the City's ordinance which required them to travel outside of the City to obtain the firing range

training. The parties then completed their expedited discovery and their briefing on the preliminary injunction and the Court held a hearing over a two-day period where both sides were permitted to present factual evidence and to argue the law.

Now after the benefit of full briefing, an amicus brief filed by the National Rifle Association, and two days of witness testimony, this Court concludes that Plaintiffs have failed to meet their burden in establishing that they have suffered an irreparable injury and that they have no adequate remedy at law. Plaintiffs' preliminary injunction motion is therefore denied for the following reasons.

I. Summary of Testimony

The Court allowed the parties to conduct expedited discovery in order to present support for the preliminary injunction within the time-frame permitted that would allow the Court to analyze the issues prior to the amnesty period expiring. After this expedited discovery period and after full briefing on the preliminary injunction, the Court held a hearing at which time the parties presented witness testimony and argument over a two-day period. Plaintiffs called three witnesses: Christopher Hart, a firing range consultant; Julianne Versnell, the Director of Operations for the Second Amendment Foundation; and Richard Pearson, the Executive Director of the Illinois State Rifle Association. None of the individual plaintiffs was called as a witness. In response, the City called two witnesses: Pattie Scudiero, Commissioner of the Chicago Department of Zoning and Land Use Planning; and Sgt. Dan Bartoli the former Range Master for the Chicago Police Department.

A. Christopher Hart

Christopher Hart is the Midwest Range Consultant for Action Target, Inc. Action Target builds and services firing ranges for law enforcement and public use, though the vast majority of

their business is for law enforcement agencies. Within Chicago, Action Target manages the U.S. Postal Service range, Federal Reserve range, and the Customs and Border Protection range. Action Target has also proposed retrofits for the Federal Air Marshall's range near O'Hare airport. The Postal Service range is near a hotel and a playground. The Federal Reserve range is located on the seventeenth floor in downtown Chicago, among office buildings. Action Target did not build or choose the location of any of the Chicago ranges, they merely retrofit them or have proposed to retrofit them. Action Target also manages Mega Sports, Inc. in Plainfield, a suburb of Chicago. Mr. Hart believes there is a market for public ranges in Chicago, but he has not had conversations with potential investors since July, when he spoke to them about joining the instant lawsuit.

Mobile ranges use equipment similar to those used in outdoor ranges. The additional factors that Hart would consider for a mobile range include sound control and parking. Hart knows of mobile ranges used at the ILEDA Conference where a mobile range is parked in a hotel parking lot and is used by law enforcement officers all day without complaints. In addition, Arms to Bear uses a mobile range in Nevada that is open to both law enforcement and the general public. However, Hart is only aware of three ranges in the United States that are open to both law enforcement and the general public. Hart estimates it costs \$30,000 - \$50,000 to construct a shooting range lane, plus an additional \$15,000 - \$30,000 per lane for ventilation. It takes nine to twelve months to construct a permanent range. Action Target does not monitor accidents at ranges.

B. Julianne Versnell

Julianne Versnell is the Director of Operations of the Second Amendment Foundation ("SAF"), a non-profit based in the state of Washington. SAF has 650,000 members in the United States, 1700 of whom reside in Chicago. SAF coordinated with the other plaintiffs in this case to

secure two locations and contract with them regarding the placement of a mobile range. Versnell spoke with Rich Pearson of the Illinois State Rifle Association (“ISRA”) about potential safety issues. ISRA will be responsible for managing the proposed Chicago mobile range, which will be in a truck provided by Blue Line. Firearms will be provided at the range; customers will not be allowed to bring their own guns. There will also be security guards on site.

Versnell does not have first-hand knowledge of the mobile range she is contracting to bring to Chicago, she is relying entirely on what Blue Line’s President Jerry Tilbor says. Her contract is for one week beginning October 6, 2010 although she has the ability to contract for other weeks. Versnell also does not know if ISRA has ever operated a mobile range. Versnell has not been personally to examine either of the properties she has contracted with, but she did speak to one of the property owners and a real estate agent about placing a mobile range there. Versnell likened this process to a “learning experience” and she does not know which property she would use if the Court granted the preliminary injunction.

C. Richard Pearson

Richard Pearson is the Executive Director of the Illinois State Rifle Association. ISRA owns a shooting range sixty miles away in Bonfield, IL where it trains members of the public and educates them about gun safety. It does not have any experience operating a mobile range and Pearson had not spoken to anyone with experience operating a mobile range prior to October 1, 2010, nor has Pearson spoken to anyone from the City of Chicago about operating a mobile range. Pearson has spoken to four range instructors and will work with them and ISRA to develop the teaching element of gun training for the mobile range. Pearson will develop and write a safety protocol for the mobile range after the truck arrives, and he expects it will take him fifteen minutes to adjust his safety

protocol from a permanent outdoor range to a mobile range.

The only weapons to be used at the proposed Chicago mobile range will be one revolver and one semi-automatic pistol, provided by ISRA. The guns will not be stored overnight at the range. The mobile range will be by appointment only. Each training session is expected to last one hour and five minutes per person, and no previous classroom experience will be required. Pearson is not aware of the location of the closest hospital to the mobile range site, or if toilets and hand-washing facilities will be available or allowed on site. Pearson admits that if hand-washing facilities are not allowed on-site, he would be forced to look for a new location to place the mobile range.

D. Pattie Scudiero

Pattie Scudiero is the Commissioner of the Chicago Department of Zoning and Land Use Planning, a position she has held since 2008. She has been a Zoning Administrator since 2006. Every property in Chicago is zoned for something. When new uses for properties arise that were not in the original zoning ordinance, her office assesses the new uses and then recommends an assessment to the city council. Though she has never been to a gun range, Scudiero believes they would fall within the intensive use category because they could pose a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of residents. Therefore, the ranges, if allowed in Chicago, would be zoned for the manufacturing districts. Manufacturing districts typically contain businesses utilizing incinerators, or involved in rock-crushing, adult uses, catering, or other types of light industry. Scudiero believes gun ranges would also have to apply for a special use permit with the Chicago Zoning Board of Appeals. Special use permits require that neighbors get notice and a public hearing before the permit is issued. Scudiero does not think the 6300 S. Bell site is appropriate for a mobile range.

Scudiero's office does not control any of the federal firing ranges located in Chicago. She

does not see any harm in allowing the Chicago Police Department (“CPD”) to operate firing ranges in the city because they do not allow public access. Scudiero did not participate in drafting the Chicago Firearms Ordinance 8-20-280. She also has no personal knowledge regarding the noise or pollution that emanate from a firing range. She has not heard of any complaints from residents about the CPD firing ranges.

E. Sgt. Dan Bartoli

Dan Bartoli has been with the CPD since 1995. Until two weeks ago, he was the Range Master for the CPD, and in this capacity he supervised all firearms training within the CPD and its approximately 13,500 members. The CPD has six ranges in Chicago, and they are limited to CPD or military use and do not allow public access. They are also all permanent ranges, with 24/7 security from sworn officers.

Bartoli sees mobile ranges as a threat to public safety because they are in the open and raise issues concerning human traffic management. Bartoli advised anyone seeking to open and operate a mobile range that they should use opaque permanent fencing, have only one entrance, a secure parking lot, a separate area for loading and unloading of weapons, and a separate area for live fire. Bartoli also counseled that people do not follow directions at ranges, and even CPD officers will violate the rules and bring their own guns to the range. Bartoli sees this as being a problem for a mobile range, with armed customers wanting advice on how to use their particular gun even if ISRA is providing weapons to use during live fire. He also sees customers bringing their own guns to the range as a safety risk to themselves, as they will be more prone to crime and theft in the parking lot.

Bartoli noted that all of his permanent ranges had washrooms with lucrative amounts of cold running water and soap. He estimates it takes him two to three days to set up a brand new facility

and its standard operating procedure. Bartoli thinks the Accurate Perforating site is problematic because of the many other businesses on site, and that the 6300 S. Bell property is problematic because of the single-family residents who live nearby and the train cars on the lot.

Bartoli agrees that training can help prevent accidents and can make you safer. The CPD has a total of forty-five firing lanes at its five ranges and its Academy in Chicago. The CPD is looking to expand this number because it is having difficulty training one-third of the CPD force (approximately 13,500 officers) each year on so few lanes. Bartoli does not believe the CPD ranges have a negative effect on the neighborhoods they are in.

II. Standard of Review

Like all forms of injunctive relief, a preliminary injunction is “an extraordinary remedy that should not be granted unless the movant, *by a clear showing*, carries the burden of persuasion.” *Mazurek v. Armstrong*, 520 U.S. 968, 972, 117 S. Ct. 1865 (1997) (emphasis in original). In the Seventh Circuit, a court must consider the following factors in deciding whether to grant a preliminary injunction: (i) the presence of irreparable harm to the moving party; (ii) the absence of an adequate remedy at law; (iii) the balance of the harms between the parties; (iv) the prospect of some likelihood of success on the merits of the claim; and (v) the public interest. *Roland Mach. Co. v. Dresser Indus., Inc.*, 749 F.2d 380, 386-88 (7th Cir. 1984). The first two factors must be considered at the threshold, for when the moving party cannot make any showing of irreparable harm and has no likelihood of success on the merits, a motion for preliminary injunction ordinarily will be denied on that ground alone. *See Praefke Auto Elec. & Battery Co. v. Tecumseh Prods. Co.*, 255 F.3d 460, 463 (7th Cir. 2001); *Abbott Labs. v. Mead Johnson & Co.*, 971 F.2d 6, 11-12 (7th Cir. 1992). Under the “sliding scale” approach employed in this circuit, “the more likely the plaintiff will succeed

on the merits, the less the balance of irreparable harms need favor the plaintiff's position." *Ty, Inc. v. Jones Group, Inc.*, 237 F.3d 891, 895 (7th Cir. 2001). "The sliding scale approach is not mathematical in nature, rather it is more properly characterized as subjective and intuitive, one which permits district courts to weigh the competing considerations and mold appropriate relief. *Id.* at 895-96 (internal quotations and citations omitted).

III. The City's Ordinance

The City's ordinance requires the following:

Subject to subsection (d), it is unlawful for any person to carry or possess a firearm without a CFP.

Chi. Mun. Code § 8-20-110

Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, a person has 90 days after the effective date of this 2010 ordinance to register a firearm, including a handgun, which had not been previously registered; provided that the person and firearm meet all the requirements of this ordinance.

Chi. Mun. Code § 8-20-140(d)(2)

Shooting galleries, firearm ranges, or any other place where firearms are discharged are prohibited; provided that this provision shall not apply to any governmental agency. The discharge of a firearm in an area where hunting is permitted shall not be a violation of this section.

Chi. Mun. Code § 8-20-280

IV. Analysis

Although Plaintiffs have alleged that any violation of the Second Amendment leads to an irreparable harm, no Court has yet to reach such a broad conclusion. The Second Amendment, as construed in *Heller*, protects "the right to possess a handgun in the home for the purpose of self-defense." *McDonald v. City of Chicago*, 130 S Ct. At 3050. The Seventh Circuit has cautioned that any general expressions in *Heller* "must be read in light of the subject under consideration." *U.S. v. Skoien*, 614 F.3d 638, 640 (7th Cir. 2010) (*en banc*); see *U.S. v. Yancey*, --- F.3d ---, 09-1138, 2010

WL 3447736 at *2 (7th Cir. Sept. 3, 2010) (some categorical bans on firearms are constitutional, not just those in existence at the time of the Second Amendment's ratification). The Seventh Circuit has applied intermediate scrutiny to laws categorically prohibiting possession of a firearm by different classes of individuals. *See Skoien*, 614 F.3d 638, (Constitution permits Congress to bar those convicted of domestic violence crimes from possessing firearms); *Yancey*, 2010 WL 3447736, (barring unlawful users of or addicts to any controlled substance from firearm possession is constitutional); *U.S. v. Williams*, --- F.3d ---, 09-3174, 2010 WL 3035483 (7th Cir. Aug. 5, 2010) (barring felons from firearm possession is constitutional). However, the Court "reserved the question of whether a different kind of firearm regulation might require a different approach." *Yancey*, 2010 WL 3447736 at *2. Although Plaintiffs urge this Court to apply either strict scrutiny or intermediate scrutiny to the requirement that residents obtain firing range training outside of the City in order to obtain their CFPs, this Court notes that the Seventh Circuit has only applied intermediate scrutiny to laws that absolutely prohibit possession of a firearm by an individual. *See Skoien*, 614 F.3d 638, *Yancey*, 2010 WL 3447736, *Williams*, 2010 WL 3035483. Because the firing range ban does not categorically prohibit any individual resident from possessing a firearm but instead requires them to travel outside of the City's borders for one hour of firing range training, this Court declines to adopt the intermediate scrutiny standard.¹

A. Irreparable Harm

First, and most importantly, Plaintiffs have failed to establish the irreparable harm they have suffered by requiring them to travel outside of the City's borders to obtain their firing range permits.

¹ As will be addressed later in this Opinion, even if the Court were to apply intermediate scrutiny to the issue before the Court, Plaintiffs still fail to meet their burden of demonstrating irreparable harm.

Ezell already traveled to a firing range outside of the City, completed her firing range training and received a CFP for the handgun she possesses. (Prelim. Inj. Hr'g, Def. Exh. 28, Deposition of Rhonda Ezell at 33:1-6.) Brown has visited a firing range in Morton Grove between 250-270 times per year, has been to the ISRA range in Bonfield, IL and has not completed his range training yet because "he has not gotten around to it." (Prelim. Inj. Hr'g, Def. Exh. 26, Deposition of Joseph Brown at 14:17-22.) Hesperen has also visited the ISRA range at least ten times in the past year and regularly drives to gun shops with firing ranges outside of the City. (Prelim. Inj. Hr'g, Def. Exh. 29, Deposition of William Hesperen at 42-45.) Not one of the individual plaintiffs appeared at the hearing in order to testify that s/he was unable to travel outside of the City's borders to obtain the one-hour range training and all three have shown that they are capable of doing so and have done so in the past. Finally, Plaintiff Action Target, a company that designs and constructs firing ranges, has alleged that it is being harmed by not being able to construct a range within the City. Yet, Action Target has no current plans to construct a range, has not searched for a location to construct a range, and would not be able to construct a range in less than nine months.

Here, the City's borders are artificial boundaries allegedly keeping Plaintiffs from completing their training. In truth, there are fourteen firing ranges within fifty miles of the City's limits any one of which may actually be closer to an individual's residence than the one being proposed to be brought into the City's borders for training. Seven of these ranges are within twenty-five miles of the City. For example, a resident of the west side of Chicago may travel six miles to Illinois Gun Works in Elmwood Park in order to obtain the one hour of training; whereas, if Plaintiff's proposed mobile range were erected at 6300 S. Bell, she would need to travel over fifteen miles to the mobile range to obtain training. Therefore, the City's boundaries are merely artificial borders allegedly preventing

an individual from obtaining a permit and allegedly creating an undue burden on that individual. When, in truth, based on the Court's example, it may actually be easier for a particular resident to obtain training outside of the City's borders. Plaintiffs have failed to meet their burden to show how the travel outside of the City's borders is more onerous and therefore irreparable.

Further, the City correctly notes that even if a particular resident needed to travel further to obtain his firing range time, that added travel expense is a quantifiable expense that can be easily calculated as damages if this Court were to determine the end result of this dispute in Plaintiffs' favor; therefore, they can not establish that there is no adequate remedy at law. Court cases are resolved on a daily basis through the awarding of damages. If a resident is permitted to exercise her right to possess a firearm but is required to travel outside of the borders to do so, she can calculate the cost of travel and those monetary damages can be awarded to her in the event of her success on the merits. Even if that resident did not comply with the amnesty period and was therefore not permitted to possess that particular firearm, she would still be able to possess another firearm by going through the permitting process. Again, her damages for the loss of the firearm in her possession can be equated to a dollar amount and therefore can be remedied through traditional means. The ordinance does not categorically prevent her possession; it merely requires one step of her training to be completed outside the City's borders.

Second, the organizations do not have the necessary standing to demonstrate their irreparable harm. The Supreme Court's rulings in *Heller* and *McDonald* addressed an individual's right to possess a firearm within his home and did not address an organization's right. Even if they did, the organizations have failed to present sufficient evidence to support their position that their constituency has been unable to comply with the statute. Throughout oral argument, Plaintiffs

repeatedly cite to the number of individuals who are conjectured to possess weapons within the City alleging at various times that the number is as high as several thousand individuals. This conjecture is an estimate, of course, because for years no one had the right to possess weapons within the City and as such there are no registration records for past possession. Plaintiffs have not presented evidence demonstrating, for example, that thousands of residents have not been able to comply with the requirements of the ordinance within the time frame allotted by the statute; nor have they presented evidence of thousands of residents who are seeking relief from the amnesty provision. Although they argue that thousands most likely need training by the amnesty deadline, they fail to support that claim with any evidence. Interestingly, although Plaintiffs have spent a significant portion of their oral argument on their ability to bring in a mobile range to the City in order to aid those who need to complete range training and cite to their ability to bring that range within the borders as evidence that they are being Constitutionally harmed, they have also set forth evidence that one mobile range could only accommodate the training of a few hundred residents within a month², thereby weakening their argument that the mobile ranges are essential to the residents while arguing that there are thousands who must comply. Plaintiffs ISRA and SAF also claim that firing ranges outside of the City cannot adequately serve the number of residents seeking to have their one-hour of range training. Yet, they have failed to support this argument with evidence of any one resident who has been unable to travel to such a range and has been unable to obtain range training due to this alleged inadequacy.

Finally, even if this Court were to apply intermediate scrutiny to the City's ban on firing

² Based on Plaintiffs' representation that twenty-four individuals a day can receive their one-hour of CFP training on a mobile range each day.

ranges, the City has presented sufficient evidence to meet its burden under this standard that its objective is an important one and that its objective is advanced by means substantially related to that objective. *See Williams*, 2010 WL 3035483 at *6. At the preliminary injunction hearing, the City presented evidence that firing ranges would fall within the intensive use category and be zoned for manufacturing districts. This level of zoning is required for types of businesses which have high levels of risk to the public whether through environmental, social, or chemical harms. The City has presented evidence that firing ranges must be highly regulated due to the risks that can be inflicted upon the surrounding community including the risk of stray bullets, the risk that individuals transporting weapons to the range are at higher likelihood of being targets for criminals who would seek to obtain the weapons, and the risk of contamination from the residue of the lead that is left on individuals who use the weapons (requiring appropriate washing facilities to remove the residue). The City has elucidated its long history of careful zoning to ensure the health and safety of its residents and since no zoning has been established to cover a firing range within the City, it is unable to enforce any health or safety restrictions. Historically, the City would review such proposed businesses and determine what those risks are and would also permit residents to object to the placement of such high-risk enterprises prior to granting permission for the placement of such a business within a particular area of the city. None of these safeguards are in place today to ensure that these risks are addressed appropriately and as such the City has presented adequate evidence that the safety of its citizens is at risk when compared to the minimal inconvenience of traveling outside of the City for a one-hour course.

B. Likelihood of Success on the Merits

The body of law involving various firearms' ordinances is evolving on an almost weekly basis. *See U.S. v. Skoien*, 614 F.3d 638, 640 (7th Cir. 2010); *U.S. v. Yancey*, 2010 WL 3447736 at *2 (7th Cir. Sept. 3, 2010); *U.S. v. Williams*, 2010 WL 3035483 (7th Cir. Aug. 5, 2010). Two facts are certain: neither the Supreme Court nor any other Circuit has addressed the regulation of firearms range training ordinances; and the Seventh Circuit has left open for another day the issue of what standard of scrutiny should apply to other types of firearms ordinances. *See Skoien*, 2010 WL 2735747 at *3. Suggesting that firing a weapon at a firing range is tantamount to possessing a weapon within one's residence for self-defense would be establishing law that has not yet been expanded to that breadth. Preliminary injunctions are not appropriately used in such instances. *See, e.g., Vega v. Lantz*, 03 C 2248, 2007 WL 3025285 at *3 (D. Conn. Oct. 16, 2007) (court declining to analyze likelihood of success on the merits because it was a matter of first impression); *I.P. Lund Trading ApS v. Kohler Co.*, 11 F. Supp. 2d 112, 115 (D. Mass. 1998) (“[T]he preliminary injunction stage is an inappropriate setting to address such constitutional issues, especially those that are, to a degree, issues of first impression”). Further, although the City has linked possession to the requirement that its residents complete a one-hour range training course, the City does not have the ability to create a Constitutional right to that training. The Court must still analyze that use and determine whether the individual's right to possess firearms within his residence expands to the right to train with that same firearm in a firing range located within the City's borders.

C. Inadequate Remedy at Law

As discussed above, each of the individual plaintiffs has the ability to quantify the damages suffered if required to obtain range training outside of Chicago and therefore monetary damages can

be calculated in the event of success on the merits. Again, each Plaintiff is entitled to possess a weapon and therefore his Second Amendment right is not being completely impinged. The Second Amendment provides that each may possess a weapon; it does not include the right to have training on that weapon within a specific distance from their residence. At any given point in the City, a resident can travel no more than twenty miles to a firing range to complete the range training requirement.

D. Balancing of the Harms

The City has adequately presented its position that it has an interest in protecting its residents from the potential harmful effects of firing ranges within its borders. It has set forth reasoning that ranges must be highly regulated due to the potential health and safety risks to both the users of the range and the neighboring community. Balanced against the inconvenience suffered by Plaintiffs having to drive a further distance to obtain range training outside of its borders, an inconvenience which all of them have been willing to incur in the past, and which all of them have done on numerous occasions, the City has successfully shown that the balance of harms weighs in its favor.

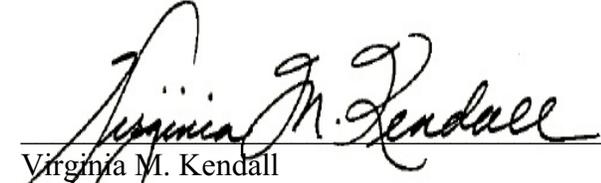
V. First Amendment

Plaintiffs also allege, however peripherally, that their First Amendment rights are also being impacted by the firing range requirement. This issue was presented with little support in the briefs and was not elucidated at the hearing. Most likely because Plaintiffs remain entitled to discuss the possession and use of firearms. No evidence has been presented that suggests that a ban on firing ranges chills residents' desire or ability to possess a firearm. *See, .e.g., N. Ind. Gun & Outdoor Shows, Inc.*, 104 F. Supp.2d 1009, 1013-14 (N.D. Ind. 2000) (no First Amendment protection for conduct of bringing guns to a gun show due to lack of particular message). Further, the four-hour

classroom training is permitted within the City's borders. Plaintiffs have failed to support their argument with any facts in the record and therefore this argument also fails.

VI. Conclusion

Plaintiffs have failed to support their contention that they have been irreparably harmed by the City's ban on firing ranges. Each individual plaintiff has the ability to travel to have firing range training conducted outside of the City's borders and the organizational Plaintiffs have failed to support their contention that residents are unable to obtain their training outside the City with any evidence. Even if Plaintiffs could demonstrate that they were harmed by the new ordinance, that harm can be remedied through monetary damages in the likelihood that they succeed on the merits. Finally, no court has expanded the breadth of the Second Amendment right of possession within one's residence as established in *Heller* to the right to train at a firing range within one's municipality and therefore there is questionable likelihood of success on the merits. Therefore, Plaintiffs' motion for preliminary injunction is denied.


Virginia M. Kendall
United States District Court Judge
Northern District of Illinois

Date: October 12, 2010