



July 5, 2022

Governor Gavin Newsom
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Attorney General's Office
California Department of Justice
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California Senate President Pro Tempore
Senator Toni Atkins
San Diego District Office
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Governor Newsom, Attorney General Bonta, Senator Atkins:

As you are aware, on June 27, for almost 24 hours, personally identifiable information (PII) on every Concealed Carry Weapon (CCW) permit holder in California was posted publicly on the State's website. The information released to the public by the Attorney General's office included name, date of birth, gender, race, driver's license number, address, and criminal history for each CCW holder in California. Despite the Firearms Dashboard Portal no longer being available, that information is now in the public for unknown persons to see and use.

Criminals who want to target someone who owns a firearm now have a list to use. Identity thieves now have a list of thousands of easy targets. Extremists who disagree with a gun owner's civil right to keep and bear arms now have a list of enemies to target and harass. Stalkers now have access to sensitive information, including home address, of their targets.

Given the language Attorney General Bonta used to describe gun owners in his June 24 press conference, it is hard for gun owners in California to believe this was an accident. Attorney General Bonta declared that a person's "right to vote, to visit your children, to go to school, to live without fear of gun violence and to live without gun violence should not be trumped by a person's right to carry a firearm."

As required by the State of California, CCW holders must go through a background check and extensive training to obtain a CCW. When an elected official blames violent crime on sane, trained, law-abiding gun owners who have gone through the CCW vetting process, should we be surprised when, days later, that same official's office exposes all their personal information to the public?

Whether it is the incompetence of the Attorney General's office, the direction of the Attorney General, or the tone of his rhetoric that made staff believe it is acceptable to release the personal information of CCW holders to the public, he has made gun owners the target of attack. Bonta's language and the actions of his office have resulted in a loss of trust in his ability to properly handle the necessary steps needed to make California CCW holders whole and safe again.

The hundreds of thousands of gun owners across the State of California demand an investigation by a third-party law enforcement agency to discover the extent of the damage done and, if any, the motivation behind the leak. The severity of the actions by the Attorney General cannot be understated, and as a result, relying on an internal investigation is unacceptable and insufficient.

We demand the State publishes all the security controls and protocols relevant to information on gun owners and CCW holders.

We demand all personal information that is stored digitally be completely disconnected from any pathway to the internet.

This is not a gun issue or a Second Amendment issue. It isn't Republican vs Democrat. It is basic government, public safety, and common decency issue. Please value the safety, security, and privacy of the Californians who are victims because they did everything right and take this as seriously as it deserves.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Schwartz

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On behalf of:

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