



**Oregon Firearms Educational Foundation**  
Educating, Advocating, Litigating

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Chief Phil Klahn  
Port of Portland Police Department  
Portland International Airport  
7000 NE Airport Way  
Portland, OR 97218

2/16/04

Dear Chief Klahn,

On February 5, 2004 I sent you an e-mail seeking information about the Port of Portland's policy concerning the possession of concealed handguns, by Oregon concealed handgun license holders, in the Portland Airport Terminal. A copy of that e-mail is enclosed.

As I said in my e-mail, in a telephone conversation I had with Sergeant Barris of your department, I was told that license holders are not exempt from a prohibition on carrying handguns in the terminal.

A copy of a Port of Portland ordinance I received from the office of attorney Barbara Jacobson indicates the same thing.

I wanted clarification from you, because I felt there was a conflict with state law.

In my conversation with Sgt. Barris, he told me that license holders were prohibited from the terminal, "just as they were from schools."

This was a cause of some concern to me, since license holders are most certainly not prohibited from schools, and that this mistaken impression, on the part of a ranking officer under your command, indicated he might be wrong about other areas of the law as well.

I did receive a call from attorney Barbara Jacobson in response to my e-mail to you, which made it clear that you had, in fact, received it. In her message to me, Ms. Jacobson told me that the penalty for a violation was \$250.00. She did not, however, explain the apparent contradiction with state law.

She did inform me that she was turning over my name to the Department of Homeland Security, since they might have "more

information" for me. She also referred to my "desire to carry a gun in the airport terminal" something I have neither expressed nor implied in any communication with you or anyone else.

I am simply seeking clarification on an issue of concern to the supporters of OFEF.

Unfortunately, I have not received any response from you.

Given the gravity of this issue, and the potential criminal penalties facing a license holder who comes to PDX, your lack of a response is very troubling to me.

State law makes it very clear where a CHL holder may not be in possession of his or her handgun. But state law makes no mention of the Portland Airport.

In these days of extreme security, the possibility that a law-abiding license holder might find himself facing armed law enforcement agents who perceive him as a threat, simply because he is in possession of a legal firearm, is very disturbing.

For the supporters of my organization, who have contacted me to find out what is and is not lawful, this issue is critical.

So, once again, I ask you to please cite the authority that the Port of Portland uses to make rules dealing with licensed concealed carry, a right we understand to be reserved to the state legislature.

The potential for legal difficulties for license holders based on this confusion is too great to continue to ignore this issue.

I look forward to a prompt response.

Very truly yours,



Kevin Starrett  
Executive Director

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