

Ronald D. Klein

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September 28, 2015

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley

Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201
by email: hollypisarik@gov.sc.gov

Subject: Patriots Point & Concealed Carry

Dear Governor Haley:

I am a descendant of families with a long involvement in South Carolina beginning before the American War of Independence. I am proud of their contribution and that of South Carolina in general to the effort to secure our freedom and liberty. And, I cherish that which these sacrifices helped provide what I now dearly enjoy and appreciate.

I am now a property owner in your state and have traveled there a number of times in recent years. My wife and I expect to spend significant time there in the future. In fact, we are visiting here at the moment specifically to participate in some SAR ceremonies to honor their service by marking graves and participating in the Kings Mountain event on October 7.

I was absolutely astonished today to go to Patriots Point in Charleston to visit the Yorktown and other things there and discover they seemed to not allow me to use my CCW permit.

Pray tell, what is a place called "Patriots Point" doing banning concealed carry by those of us who are legally allowed to do so in South Carolina? Of all places, I can assure you my numerous patriot ancestors would say "I didn't fight and die for such foolishness". This is frankly an insult to every law abiding citizen who is a patriotic American and who has ancestors who have fought and died for this nation. And, mine started doing that 400 years ago in the Jamestown Colony! I spent most of my long engineering career developing, designing, deploying and supporting weapons systems that have defended our nation for nearly 50 years!

Furthermore, I urge you to read my letter - attached - to the Executive Director of Patriots Point. As you can tell, I was sorely disappointed in his conduct and by the time the conversation ended I was furious. This is another individual who is apparently unsuited for his job.

Of all things... if this is a state agency as he claimed... SHOULDN'T THEY FOLLOW THE LAW? I think so! I would expect you to also.

Frankly, I suggest you rename it from Patriots Point to Patriot's Insult if you are going to permit this situation to continue. Or, perhaps... FUTURE KILLING FIELD.

I would appreciate a response describing what you might do to correct this insulting, disgraceful situation where a claimed state agency doesn't respect a law-abiding citizen's attempt to discuss a situation of this nature, and doesn't seem to think it has to follow state law.

Respectfully,



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September 28, 2015

To: Mac Burdette, Executive Director, Patriot Point

mburdette@patriotspoint.org

Subject: Issues regarding Concealed Carry and signage in violation of law.

Dear Mr. Burdette,

I appreciated your time today to call me back. I had hoped to have had a reasonable, informed adult discussion on my questions and concerns. Unfortunately, your immediately hostile, disrespectful, and confrontational communication style prevented that.

First of all, if Patriots Point is going to claim that you have authority claimed to be that of a 'state building' to claim you can take the position that "No Concealable Weapons Allowed" apply, then I suggest you are in violation of the law as an entity as your signage clearly does not comply with South Carolina Statute.

I refer you to the attached extract of the applicable statute. And, I specifically refer you to the attached photograph showing a sign that is at the entrance to the pathway to the USS Yorktown.

Please note that this sign does not comply with statute in wording, size, shape, or the required graphic. I do not believe, in fact, that you can legally enforce the claimed requirement as it does not comply with law. You do not give the legally required notice to any citizen who has the legal right to carry a concealed weapon under South Carolina law.

Furthermore, I believe it is "a stretch" to treat Patriots Point as a "government building" under law. The fact that there is a development authority that has some relationship with state government and may be on government land does not meet the expected requirement of a "Government Building" which performs a classical government function, such as a court house, a capital building, a legislative building, or some motor vehicle office or similarly functioning government entity that provides basic government services to citizens. Your entity is simply a historical museum that is essentially a tourist attraction and not anything that can be considered an essential form of government.

I suggest your position needs to be fully scrutinized by an unbiased legal entity that has a full and complete understanding of the intent of South Carolina law and the intent of the 2nd Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. That entity should NOT be SLED. I believe your entity has clearly infringed on my legal rights and others like myself.

And, your unfortunate method of communication with me on an important issue to law abiding citizens like myself certainly does not speak well regarding your respect of my rights as a law abiding citizen.

Very truly yours,



Ronald D. Klein

South Carolina Code of Laws
Unannotated
Current through the end of the 2014 Session

SECTION 23-31-235. Sign requirements.

(A) Notwithstanding any other provision of this article, any requirement of or allowance for the posting of signs prohibiting the carrying of a concealable weapon upon any premises shall only be satisfied by a sign expressing the prohibition in both written language interdict and universal sign language.

(B) All signs must be posted at each entrance into a building where a concealable weapon permit holder is prohibited from carrying a concealable weapon and must be:

(1) clearly visible from outside the building;

(2) eight inches wide by twelve inches tall in size;

(3) contain the words "NO CONCEALABLE WEAPONS ALLOWED" in black one-inch tall uppercase type at the bottom of the sign and centered between the lateral edges of the sign;

(4) contain a black silhouette of a handgun inside a circle seven inches in diameter with a diagonal line that runs from the lower left to the upper right at a forty-five degree angle from the horizontal;

(5) a diameter of a circle; and

(6) placed not less than forty inches and not more than sixty inches from the bottom of the building's entrance door.

(C) If the premises where concealable weapons are prohibited does not have doors, then the signs contained in subsection (A) must be:

(1) thirty-six inches wide by forty-eight inches tall in size;

(2) contain the words "NO CONCEALABLE WEAPONS ALLOWED" in black three- inch tall uppercase type at the bottom of the sign and centered between the lateral edges of the sign;

(3) contain a black silhouette of a handgun inside a circle thirty-four inches in diameter with a diagonal line that is two inches wide and runs from the lower left to the upper right at a forty-five degree angle from the horizontal and must be a diameter of a circle whose circumference is two inches wide;

(4) placed not less than forty inches and not more than ninety-six inches above the ground;

(5) posted in sufficient quantities to be clearly visible from any point of entry onto the premises.



Sign does NOT comply with statutory requirements.