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San Diego County Sheriff's Department - Media Relations

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San Diego County Sheriff CCW Update

Today, the Supreme Court of the United States, declined to hear the appeal of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruling in the case of *Peruta v. California, et al.* This case involved applicants who were denied licenses to obtain concealed carry permits. The applicants were denied for failing to establish "good cause," as required under California law. The applicants sued alleging that the "good cause" requirement violated their Second Amendment rights. The matter was eventually argued before an en banc panel of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

In its decision, the Ninth Circuit framed the issue as "whether the Second Amendment protects, in any degree, the ability to carry concealed firearms in public." The Ninth Circuit analyzed the history relating to the right to bear arms from 1299 AD through modern times and came to the conclusion that there is no right to carry a concealed firearm in public. In support of its decision, the Ninth Circuit relied upon a decision of the U.S. Supreme Court. The Ninth Circuit concluded that "[b]ecause the Second Amendment does not protect in any degree the right to carry concealed firearms in public, any prohibition or restriction a state may choose to impose on concealed carry – including a requirement of 'good cause,' however defined – is necessarily allowed by the Amendment."

Sheriff Gore has consistently stated that it is the function of the Legislature to make the laws, the courts to interpret the laws, and law enforcement's role to enforce the laws, regardless of their personal beliefs or biases. Throughout this legal process, Sheriff Gore has been committed to allowing the process to conclude so that clear guidance would be provided.

Based on the Supreme Court's decision today, the ruling by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals will stand and the procedure of obtaining a license to carry a concealed weapon within the County of San Diego will continue as it has since the 1980s. As always, anyone who believes that they may have circumstances which place them in harm's way, and necessitate the ability to carry a concealed firearm, can apply for a license with the Sheriff's Licensing Division. Good cause is evaluated on an individual basis.

Instructions for applying for a concealed carry license can be found at <http://sdsheriff.net/licensing/ccw.html>.

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