

OpenCarry.org

For Immediate Release – June 17, 2008

Utah OpenCarry.org members to attend West Valley City Council meeting tonight to ask that the Mayor reign in his police department from their practice of unlawfully detaining, searching, and harassing citizens who legally open carry

A large number of citizens from around Utah will be attending the West Valley City Council meeting tonight, Tuesday June 17th at 6:30 P.M.

Some will be legally openly carrying handguns in holsters. Others will be legally carrying handguns concealed.

They will be there to demand that the Mayor rein in his police department from their practice of unlawfully detaining, searching, and harassing citizens who are peaceably going about their business while armed.

These citizens are part of a group of people who "Open Carry" - who meet regularly to discuss the laws and complexities of carrying firearms openly for protection as well as to make a political statement. They also discuss and organize their meetings on the internet at OpenCarry.org, a website founded by two law students in Virginia that allows people across the country to discuss the practice.

In Utah there is no law against openly carrying a firearm as long as there is no bullet in the chamber (for semi-automatic firearms). If a person has a concealed weapons permit, the chambered round restriction is lifted, and one can carry "fully loaded".

Recent encounters, especially with WVC PD, have prompted the group to educate the mayor, city council, and police department in the laws, so that law abiding citizens are no longer treated like criminals while going about their business.

Recent articles in the Salt Lake Tribune, the Deseret News, the LA Times, and other local and national newspapers and internet blogs have caused the open carry movement to explode in the last year across the country, a fact that the West Valley Police must have heard about by now.

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Footnotes

1. Information about the West Valley City council meeting can be found at <http://www.wvc-ut.gov/sirepub/pubmtgframe.aspx?meetid=528&doctype=AGENDA>.
2. Incidents with WVCPD are described at <http://opencarry.mywowbb.com/forum52/11739-1.html>.
3. LA Time article can be found at http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-opencarry7-2008jun07_0,849912.story.
4. Salt Lake Tribune article can be found at http://www.sltrib.com/News/ci_9519160
5. Deseret News article can be found at <http://www.deseretnews.com/article/1,5143,695220748,00.html>