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It's Time to Get Serious About Gun Control

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Lincoln Park After Dark Tonight!

The Lincoln Park Merchants Association (LPMA) brings you a night of shopping at a Boutique Warehouse sale. Enjoy cocktails and hors d'oeuvres as you browse the wares of Lincoln Park businesses. [Click here for more information.](#)

Thread Lounge
918 W. Armitage
Thursday, January 24
5:00pm-10:00pm

Turn in Your Sidewalk Cafe Applications ASAP

Each year businesses must reapply for their Sidewalk Cafe Permit. The Dept. of Business Affairs has already sent out renewal applications. The time to submit your application for a sidewalk cafe is NOW if you want to avoid delays closer to the beginning of the season.

Dear Friends,

I, like you, have watched with shock, sadness, and anger as instances of gun violence continue to rock our country. As a parent I feel that more needs to be done. As a former federal prosecutor and a current member of a legislative body, I know how we must begin.

Nationally

In a speech following the tragic Newtown shooting, President Obama [made clear](#) his intent to take real steps to strengthen existing gun control. To that end he has [introduced](#) major legislative proposals and 23 executive actions to enforce existing laws and make it harder for guns to get in the hands of the wrong people through strengthening the background check project. Our own Illinois senator, Sen. Dick Durbin, is leading the effort to implement basic, common sense regulations around gun and ammunition purchases - regulations that would still uphold citizens' Second Amendment rights.

These include:

- Bar those with a history of mental instability or violent crime from owning weapons;
- Outlaw the sale of certain weapons that are strictly for military use and have no useful purpose in sport, hunting, or self defense;
- Ban magazine clips with more than ten rounds from civilian use;
- Restrict the number of firearms a single person can buy in a month;
- Require firearms within the reach of children to have protective locks;
- Require background checks of all purchasers and;

Applications should be submitted to our ward office located at 2523 N. Halsted. Click here to download the application. Questions? Call us at 773-348-9500 or e-mail us at yourvoice@ward43.org.

- Close the loopholes that allow "straw purchasers" to buy guns and then resell them on the street.

In Chicago

At this month's City Council Meeting, Mayor Emanuel [introduced](#) new gun control legislation that provides stiffer penalties for breaking the law and expanding the requirement for reporting the loss or theft of a firearm. Additionally, he has asked city pensions to [divest](#) from gun manufacturers. I look forward to voting in favor of the Mayor's legislation and taking the first step on the path to reducing gun violence.

North Township Property Valuation Appeals Due Feb. 5

If you live SOUTH of Fullerton Ave. you have from Jan. 7, 2013 to Feb. 5, 2013 to appeal your property tax valuation. Questions? Call Bridget Boehm at (312) 603-5562 or e-mail her at bridget.boehm@cookcountyil.gov.

What Can You Do?

Nationally: You can [sign](#) Senator Durbin's petition in support of common sense gun regulations.

Senior Citizen Exemptions Due Feb. 6

Under Illinois law, seniors must re-apply for the cost-saving Senior Citizen Exemption and the Senior Freeze Exemption, and the deadline is February 6th, 2013. Eligible seniors who have never applied for the senior exemptions or seniors who have not received their application may visit the Assessor's website and download an application, or call 312-443-7550 and request that a form be mailed.

In Chicago: If you have a pension or retirement fund, you can ask its manager to determine if it is invested in a company that manufactures or sells assault weapons and ask them to divest.

What about Crime?

Some people believe that a gun is necessary to defend themselves against the possibility of home invasion. But alas, that is not the case. Instead, guns are often stolen and used in crimes elsewhere.

The single biggest type of crime in Lincoln Park is burglary - where a door or garage door is left open, or where a door is easily popped open with a crowbar. Look for our upcoming anti-crime program, where we'll teach you simple, inexpensive ways to dramatically increase your and your home's personal security.



43rd Ward Office
2523 N. Halsted
www.ward43.org

Office Hours:
Monday
9a.m.-7p.m.

Sincerely,

43rd Ward Alderman Michele Smith

Tuesday-Thursday
9a.m.-6p.m.
Friday
9a.m.-12p.m. & 2p.m.-6p.m.

Contact us:
phone
773-348-9500
email
yourvoice@ward43.org

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