

Mayor Michael Coleman spins the truth about guns.

In reaction to Mayor Michael Coleman's showboating comments ... "C&E, we are calling you out today. If you have a nickel of moral responsibility in your pocket, I ask you to spend it in Columbus. Require background checks on all private gun sales at your gun shows."

"C&E is the company that holds gun shows at Westland Mall," Coleman said. "Without the proper background checks, unlicensed private gun sellers will have the ability to sell to gangsters, criminals and drug pushers at the C&E gun shows"...says Mayor Michael Coleman.

Mayor Michael Coleman is obviously speaking with great authority about something of which he is very clearly ignorant. Any fool who acts like he knows something -- when he doesn't -- is aggravating, but a fool in a powerful political office is just dangerous. He has evidently never set foot in a gun show. Of course, we run ethical and moral shows. There are families at the shows, police and ATF. Gun shows are great because of the huge selection and variety of firearms and gun related accessories, as well as on-site experts on their use. These shows are safe, well lit with wide aisles and good concessions. That is why shows like the Westland Mall Gun Show attracts over 500 tables and more than 6,000 law abiding people during an average March show. Frankly, Coleman sounds like another grandstanding politician unable to handle the community's crashing economy, budget, and soaring crime. Sadly, he lashes out at legal, legitimate businesses to deflect the blame from where it squarely lies -- on the politician's doorstep. Mayor Coleman is like many anti-gunners -- grasping at straws, with ridiculous rhetoric like 'we call you out.'

Gun Shows Are a Statistically Insignificant Source of Crime Guns.

Like all good yarns, this one has a thread of truth that is being overspun. All Federal Firearms Licensed (FFL's) dealers conduct background checks and most of the exhibitors with firearms are FFL's. Gun shows account for 0.7% of guns used in crimes, less than 1 percent, according to the U.S. Department of Justice. That is where we get our numbers, and those statistics are available for everyone to see. The Department of Justice is the foremost authority on criminal behavior. See the study cited below. Gun control advocates, like the grandstanding Mayor of Columbus and his associate Mayor Michael Bloomberg of New York City, have to resort to using phony statistics because the truth does not support their agenda. It is ridiculous that gun shows remain a giant target for antigun groups, antigun media and lazy politicians when 99.3 percent of the guns used in crimes come from other sources. Criminals don't get their guns at gun shows. There are always police officers and ATF at the show. They are there to assure that sales are legal, and they do their jobs well.

But Mayor Coleman also called on state legislators to return to cities the power to enact gun legislation. The legislators in Ohio just changed these laws and they are not going to give that unfettered power back to him. Mr., Coleman called on the promoters of a gun show regularly held at Westland Mall to make sure those who buy guns there go through a check to ensure that nothing in their background prohibits them from owning a gun.

Interestingly, Mayor Coleman calls on us to do what he cannot get legislators to do because it is against the wishes of the people, his own constituency. He wants us to bypass The Second Amendment, all the other laws and law enforcement, and somehow do this on our own. First off, it is not legal. If we wanted to, which we don't, we couldn't do it. We would get sued. He does not understand that the public does not wish to have Big Brother watching their purchase of every gun. The people with good reason do not trust the government. Throughout history, governments who register guns always show up at some future time to confiscate the guns and then kill some large group of people. For a summary of why the people don't trust the government to register their guns, or them, as gun owners, read the 'Why not register guns?' link on our website (www.showmasters.com). It is under the General Information tab. The Second Amendment was put in place by our forefathers for numerous reasons. One is to protect us from the government making a list of every gun owner (so that the government can confiscate firearms at some future time). History has proven this time and time again. The law-abiding people of Australia, Canada and England were all recently disarmed. Entire nations of citizens turned into subjects.

The state needs consistent gun laws statewide. That is why Ohio lawmakers took cities, counties and municipalities out of the picture. The citizens can't keep up with smaller government entities making inconsistent laws that endanger their freedom and security. City leaderships often take an anti-gun stance because of a narrow focus on lower-class male-on-male violence. Unable to determine how to effectively control these violent groups, they enthusiastically turn their frustrations to guns, thereby completely missing the mark. Gang wars and violence are the failure of enforcement tactics

and demonstrate the need for effective judicial processes. To state it simply, the criminals need much more severe punishment.

Mayor Coleman and Mayor Bloomberg – Two Peas In A Pod

Let's start with where Michael Coleman's alliances, mindset and contributions lie. Mayor Coleman is a member of the "Mayors Against Illegal Gun Coalition," a bi-partisan group with a stated goal of "making the public safer by getting illegal guns off the streets." The coalition is co-chaired by Boston Mayor Thomas Menino and New York City Mayor Bloomberg. We might add it achieves its "goal" by going after law abiding citizens and their guns.

Mayors Against Illegal Guns (MAIG) is an indisputably antigun group comprised of a coalition of mayors. Many antigun organizations try to take small steps, a piece at a time, one law at a time to accomplish their real goal -- to outlaw civilian ownership of firearms in the United States by eroding the rights and the laws that protect us. These groups work a little at a time because they know they can't achieve their main objective all at once. It has happened recently in Canada, Australia and England. Entire nations disarmed, citizens turned into subjects and crime sky rocketing. MAIG was formed on April 25, 2006, during a summit held at Gracie Mansion that was hosted by Boston Mayor Thomas Menino and New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who serve as Co-Chairs of the Coalition. **This left-wing group of anti-gun politicians is in direct opposition to The Constitution and The Second Amendment, both of which were created to protect citizens from corrupt politicians.**

The Coalition is composed of mayors from both major political parties, the Progressive Party, and the Green Party. Its statement of principles has received the endorsement of the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the National Conference of Black Mayors. The majority of members of Mayors Against Illegal Guns are Democrats.

Acknowledging an "unacceptable spike in homicides last year," Coleman outlined Columbus' efforts to maintain what he says is still one of the safest cities in the nation, including spending 70 percent of the city's operating budget on safety forces.

Columbus is in the bottom 2 percent of safe cities in the United States. Your chances of becoming a victim in Columbus are one in 119. Obviously the problems are multi-faceted and multi-layered. You need more guns, not fewer in Columbus. The citizens of Columbus need to be able to defend themselves. The extra police are an excellent first step, but it has to be followed up with very severe punishment or criminals are just going to laugh on. Weak punishment endangers the both police and the citizens that these predatory animals are released back out upon.

In the City of Columbus, is it true that criminals using firearms are supposed to get the maximum sentence automatically? Then why is it almost always removed from sentencing procedures first? The police need to be backed up prosecutors and the entire court system. That comes back to officials, like Mayors, who can – if they want to -- for prosecution and sentencing. We call on Mayor Coleman call for increased sentences of criminals in the City. Columbus needs a tough, savvy Mayor who understands the relationship between crime and punishment. This city needs a complete about-face from Mayor Coleman. The city needs higher concealed carry rates. **Every time** concealed carry rates go up, crime goes down. Law abiding armed citizens able to defend themselves reduce crime rates drastically enough to be recorded in statistics by the very fact that so many lawful taxpayers are armed.

The Nitty Gritty Facts

The attached study entitled "Firearm Use by Offenders" by the U.S. Department of Justice. The entire study is on our website (www.showmasters.us) under the General Information tab. The 1997 study of more than 200,000 inmates in State and Federal Prisons was conducted under the Clinton administration and the Janet Reno Department of Justice, clearly no friends to the 2nd Amendment or gun shows. Gun shows account for 0.7% of guns used in crimes. Less than 1 percent!. An estimated 18 percent of State Prisoners and 15 percent of Federal prisoners reported using, carrying or possessing a firearm during the crime for which they were sentenced. The possession of firearms increased for violent criminals to 30 percent of State prisoners and 35 percent of Federal prisoners. This means that 70 to 65 percent of prisoners used no gun at all during the commission of their violent crime. It is doubtful that if that 30 – 35 percent had not possessed a gun at the time, that it would have deterred them from committing the crime. It is not a gun that causes the crime; the individual has something extremely wrong with his mind. The gun may enable the criminal to commit the crime more easily, but it is the same possession and use of firearms that enables law abiding citizens to protect

themselves. The numbers are clearly on gun owner's side. There is another great study which addresses many issues including inner city crime posted on our website, entitled "Armed Resistance to Crime." After you read that one, for some light reading, start referring to the references at the end. It begins to show how serious and important gun ownership is to society. The study draws from FBI, U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics, many universities, State Police Departments, criminologists, Schools of Criminology and Criminal Justice Schools, U.S. Bureau of Census, Gary Kleck's study on Defensive Gun Uses (DGU), National Crime Statistics, National Crime Survey, as well as The Ohio Statistical Analysis Center, Ohio Citizen Attitudes Concerning Crime and Criminal Justice among many others.

There are approximately 5,000 gun shows a year in the United States. People from all walks of life attend: 10 million people attend annually. Gun shows provide a great value because of competition between vendors. There is great selection of firearms and prices range from affordable to "significant." The selection of accessories, holsters, ammunition, safes, training, knives, stun guns, Tasers, hunting supplies, army surplus, etc. and competition between exhibitors creates the lowest prices available. All the guns are tied and nobody is trying to shoot at you like might be the case in high-crime areas.

Did you know that one of the biggest reasons anti-gun politicians target gun shows is The First Amendment? These are assemblies of large masses of pro-gun citizens – taxpayers all. The First Amendment is the real threat to anti-gun politicians, and gun shows may indeed be where the Bill of Rights is most exercised. We network, and pro-gun groups campaign to get rid of bad politicians threatening our freedom and security.

Only lazy politicians make laws that go after gun shows, and law abiding citizens, because it's easy. It makes them look like they are doing something to prevent crime when they are just pandering. And they are beginning to look really pathetic to everyone as they are increasingly out of the mainstream in America. It is long ago proven that criminals don't get their guns at gun shows. In fact, Gun Shows are not a criminal friendly environment at all. Black market guns are a lot cheaper, plus firearms found at Gun Shows have those pesky serial numbers on them. There are dozens of police officers through every show, in uniform and plain clothes. They are good customers. How many guys need three different kinds of holsters? There are literally thousands of people around including law enforcement (local, state and federal) working AND shopping at the shows. Former and present day law enforcement as well as many active duty and retired military participate as exhibitors and customers.

If Mayor Coleman wants to take a bite out of crime, longer sentencing for criminals would be an excellent start. The federal government knows it. That's why the feds forced states to make prisoners serve 80 percent of their sentences or the federal government would cut funding to the state prisons. You don't see Coleman talking about that. Why? It would require him to roll up his sleeves and actually go to work. Among prisoners carrying a firearm during their crime, 40 percent of State inmates and 56 percent of Federal inmates received a sentence enhancement because of the gun. For violent criminals carrying a gun during a violent crime, it should be a mandatory sentence increase. The longer criminals are in the prison, the longer society is protected. THAT is reality.

But for lazy politicians attempting to curry favor with unenlightened voters, it's much easier to say, "It's the gun shows fault we have so much crime." Coleman and Bloomberg are at the front of the line of this group.

The police assigned to gun shows will be the first to tell you it is a cake job. Most the time they are bored. The vast majority of the police would prefer to be chasing criminals, making arrests and making a difference. The ones who feel this way are true heroes. Maybe, just maybe we should look at the other 99.3 percent of crime gun sources before we go making anymore useless, ineffective laws that do nothing to stop crime (but create an enormous waste when financially strapped cities – like Columbus -- possess limited law enforcement resources and funds.

Crime and Punishment

The harsher the punishment the lower the crime rates dip. It is a shame, but usually liberal gun hating politicians are very lenient on criminals because they do not, or refuse, to see the relationship between crime and punishment. These politicians have the power to appoint judges, lawyers and influence law making decisions that have great and horrible impacts on society.

Gun control fanatics want everyone to lay down their guns. They can force law abiding citizens to do so with aggressive laws. But the criminals never obey. Therefore these well-meaning gun control zealots endanger every law abiding, descent citizen. They just can't understand you can't put the toothpaste back into the tube. The world is not all butterflies and rainbows. If they aren't smart enough to understand criminal behavior they need to find another line of work. Maybe

the movies for Mayor Coleman -- considering his flair for theatrics and continually repeating fictitious statements demonizing guns.

The mental health infrastructure needs more money, meds, beds and physicians. There were huge federal budget cuts to the Mental Health industry under the Clinton Administration and the money was never restored. Not properly caring for the mentally ill is an egregious mistake. Allowing the mentally ill to prey on society is cruel to all parties involved. The mentally ill in this country are being mistreated and uncared for. Mahatma Gandhi said two incredibly notable things – he said that **among the many misdeeds of British rule in India, “history will look upon the Act depriving a whole nation of arms, as the blackest.”** He also said a society should be judged by how it treats its weakest citizens. Clearly a nation should be judged by how it poor and it’s mentally ill are treated. Both the Virginia Tech and the Tulsa, Arizona massacres were obvious miscarriages of treatment of the mentally ill and responsibility lands squarely on the mental health infrastructure’s mismanagement by our federal government and on down through state and city levels. And society paid dearly for it.

Our politicians are failing us miserably.

Isn’t there someone else out there that can get focused on fixing the problems of Columbus, like this huge budget mess? Someone who has some serious ideas about reducing crime instead of disarming law abiding citizens and causing harm to legitimate businesses deserves to be Mayor. Earl Smith is running for Mayor and has three decades of police experience. He deserves a serious look. Everyone who is disgusted with Mayor Coleman needs to consider Earl Smith. Put your money where your mouth is and donate to his campaign if you believe he is worthy.

As for Mayor Michael Bloomberg and the great city of New York, successive and pronounced cycles of gang violence have been documented in New York City, reaching back well over a century. Social historian Eric Schneider has chronicled the trajectory of the serious and widespread gang problem that plagued the city from the mid-1940s through the mid-1960s, during the transformation of the city’s economy from war production and manufacturing to financial and legal services, insurance, real estate development, and civil service jobs (Schneider 1999). African American and Puerto Rican families migrating into the city faced a highly racialized labor market that systematically excluded them from well-paying job categories, and racial segregation shunted them into older housing stock located in the poorest neighborhoods. Adolescent peer groups formed within crowded city schools competed outside of school with hostile ethnic groups for recreational space along neighborhood borderlines. According to the Justice Policy Institute, gang wars and violence are the failure of enforcement tactics and the need for effective public safety strategies.

Please see the attached letter to Mayor Michael Bloomberg from the Justice Department. The letter is posted on our website at www.showmasters.us under the General Information tab, ‘*Mayor Bloomberg warning letter from DOJ.*’ This letter was just recently released and has never before been available for public scrutiny. Why have law enforcement, BATF, the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Attorney’s Office REPEATEDLY told Mayor Bloomberg that all of the pronouncements he has made and so-called “evidence” of wrongdoing at gun shows are not prosecutable? Not only have they told Bloomberg there is nothing to prosecute but they also told him -- in so many words -- to cease and desist his activities. How many times, by how many parties, does he need told? The letter is basically a cease and desist letter dating all the way back to 2007 when he pulled the same antics in Virginia. At that time, the Virginia State Attorney General, Bob McDonald, drafted a law and sent it to Bloomberg with a nice cover letter that told him if he came back to the great state of Virginia with his circus act McDonald would have him prosecuted. Bob McDonald is now Virginia’s Governor. Ohio’s Attorney General could do something similar and let Bloomberg go play in some other states. Mayor Bloomberg received this very strong rebuke insisting he cease and desist and has chosen to ignore it by traveling even farther into other states. Even though Virginia threw him out he seems to believe he is above the law and can do anything he wants. Mayor Bloomberg seems to think he is right and the rest of the country is wrong!

What results, if any, has spending \$2.5 million dollars of New York City taxpayer’s money had on crime rates in the Big Apple? Why didn’t he spend his own personal money on this crusade to disarm the American public instead of increasingly scarce New York City tax dollars? Is this a correct appropriation of city tax money? Are City of New York taxpayers okay with their crusading mayor spending it in other states for some anti-gun tirade? Why doesn’t some member of the media investigate misappropriation of city funds? Why doesn’t the City of New York adopt a concealed carry permit system like the vast majority rest of the United states? A system that is proven to lower crime rates. Interestingly, Bloomberg is passionate about disarming everyone else, but you don’t seem him getting rid of his armed guards.

We have heard from the experts. Mayor Bloomberg should follow their advice instead of running off on a continuation of his bizarre anti-gun cross-country tour. It is clear he is more interested in showboating and getting his name in the lime light than making a difference.

Such is life in the ivory tower with armed guards circling at the bottom while you look down up your peasants.