

From: [Russo, Charlie](#)
To: [Sheehan, Andy](#); [Golden, Patricia](#); [Takacs, Debra](#); [Dretler, Janie](#)
Subject: Fw: firearm shop zoning bans advice?
Date: Wednesday, July 12, 2023 11:13:38 AM

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Ruth must have forwarded this exchange to Janet Goldenberg, as Janet subsequently contacted me out of the blue.

Charlie Russo
Town of Sudbury Select Board
russoc@sudbury.ma.us

The Secretary of State's office has determined that most emails to and from municipal offices and officials are public records. Consequently, confidentiality should not be expected.

From: Ruth Zakarin <ruth@mapreventgunviolence.org>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 5:22 PM
To: Russo, Charlie
Subject: Re: firearm shop zoning bans advice?

Hi Charlie,

It's nice to meet you. Yes, Newton did recently go through this process and if it would be helpful I would be happy to see if Janet would be able to speak with you. I know that Newton got a lot of support from the lawyers at Giffords around those options. Additionally, there are people at the Attorney General's office who work on gun enforcement that can also be a resource.

I wonder if your best bet would be to reach out directly to the Newton Select Board to see if they could share more about their deliberations to help inform yours.

I hope that information is helpful!

Best,
Ruth

Ruth Zakarin (she/her), Executive Director
Massachusetts Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence

11 Beacon Street
Suite 722

Boston, Massachusetts 02108

617-718-5645

Find us on: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#) or at our [website](#)

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On Jul 10, 2023, at 12:37 PM, Russo, Charlie <RussoC@sudbury.ma.us> wrote:

Hello,

My name is Charlie Russo, and I serve as a Select Board member in Sudbury MA. The Select Board is currently considering zoning bylaw regulations that would regulate and restrict – though not entirely ban – the location and operation of firearm shops. Some residents are advocating for a full ban of firearms sales within Town. I understand Newton and other communities in recent years have considered, but decided against full bans. I wonder if your organization has any advice on the best path to proceed in order to safeguard residents against gun violence.

I know a former board member, Janet Goldenberg, provided some comments to the Boston Globe regarding Newton's proposal, raising concerns about a potential backlash in which a full ban would be overturned by the Supreme Court, and potentially weaken existing regulations.

The Sudbury Select Board will next discuss this issue at about 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday July 11, so any advice prior to then would be helpful.

Regards,

Charlie Russo

978-808-3972

Charlie Russo

Town of Sudbury Select Board

russoc@sudbury.ma.us

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municipal offices and officials are public records. Consequently, confidentiality should not be expected.

From: [Russo, Charlie](#)
To: [Sheehan, Andy](#); [Takacs, Debra](#); [Golden, Patricia](#); [Dretler, Janie](#)
Subject: Fw: Giffords Law Center: REQUEST ASSISTANCE FORM
Date: Wednesday, July 12, 2023 11:11:54 AM

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Charlie Russo
Town of Sudbury Select Board
russoc@sudbury.ma.us

The Secretary of State's office has determined that most emails to and from municipal offices and officials are public records. Consequently, confidentiality should not be expected.

From: Allison Anderman <aanderman@giffords.org>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2023 12:57 PM
To: Russo, Charlie
Subject: Re: Giffords Law Center: REQUEST ASSISTANCE FORM

Hi Charlie,

Thanks for reaching out. I worked with Littleton on its zoning restrictions.

Unfortunately, I cannot talk on the phone today and due to gun activists' penchant for submitting public record act requests, I am unable to put anything substantive in an email.

The best I can tell you over email is that the approaches taken by Littleton is the one we'd recommend. If you'd like to set up a call for later in the week to discuss, I'd be happy to do that.

Best,
Allison

On Mon, Jul 10, 2023 at 12:40 PM Giffords <info@giffords.org> wrote:

From: Charlie Russo<russoc@sudbury.ma.us>
Subject: Giffords Law Center: REQUEST ASSISTANCE FORM
Message Body:

First Name: Charlie

Last Name: Russo

Title: Select Board Member

Organization: Select Board of Sudbury, MA (equivalent to City Council)

City: Sudbury

State: MA

Zip: 01776

Phone: 978-808-3972

Email: russoc@sudbury.ma.us

Please summarize the assistance that you are requesting:

Hello,

My name is Charlie Russo, and I serve as a Select Board member in Sudbury MA. The Select Board is currently considering zoning bylaw regulations that would regulate and restrict – though not entirely ban – the location and operation of firearm shops in town (e.g., a minimum distance from sensitive locations, insurance requirements, etc.).

Some residents are advocating for a full ban of firearms sales within Town. I understand Newton MA and other communities in recent years have considered, but decided against, full bans. In Newton, concerns were raised about a potential backlash in which a full ban would be overturned by the Supreme Court, and potentially weaken existing regulations.

I wonder if your organization has any advice on the best path to proceed in order to safeguard residents against gun violence, specifically around the regulation of firearm shops. The Sudbury Select Board will next discuss this issue at about 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday July 11, so any advice prior to then would be helpful.

Regards,

Charlie Russo

978-808-3972

Agreement initials: CGR

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This email is sent via Request Policy Assistance form at Giffords Law Center:

<https://giffords.org/lawcenter/action/request-policy-assistance/>

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Allison Anderman

Senior Counsel and Director of Local Policy

Pronouns: she/her/hers

Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence

415-846-8748 | giffordslawcenter.org

[@GIFFORDS_org](https://www.instagram.com/GIFFORDS_org)

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