

PRESS RELEASE

GeorgiaCarry.org Files Lawsuit Against Atlanta Mayor and Airport Manager

Lawsuit names entities and individuals for threat of wrongful arrest on day that new firearms law takes effect.

Atlanta, July 1, 2008: GeorgiaCarry.org (GCO) again filed suit against the City of Atlanta and Mayor Shirley Franklin, but this time have added Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (Hartsfield-Jackson) and airport manager Ben DeCosta as well. This lawsuit comes as a result of statements made from both Mayor Franklin and Mr. DeCosta the night before Georgia's new firearms law HB 89 took effect. The Mayor and Mr. DeCosta have unlawfully declared Hartsfield-Jackson a "gun free" zone although public transportation, including airport terminal areas not governed by Federal law (secure areas) are no longer off limits to persons in possession of a valid Georgia Firearms License (GFL).

The author of the bill, Georgia House of Representatives member Tim Bearden (R-68) was contacted for comment yesterday after the media was made aware the declaration by Mayor Franklin and Mr. DeCosta. Rep. Bearden stated that he would be at the airport picking up some family members who were arriving on July 1st and further stated that he would be armed lawfully while doing so. Mr. DeCosta addressed Rep. Bearden's remarks by stating, "I can identify [Rep. Bearden], and I'll have him arrested."

Under Georgia State law, cities and municipalities are preempted from passing ordinances which address the possession and carry of firearms. This lawsuit comes shortly after GCO won a similar lawsuit against the City of Atlanta for its ban on carrying firearms in city parks. GCO Counsel and Vice President John Monroe added, "It is amazing to me that the City of Atlanta continues to defy state law and

declares itself to be contemptuous of the rule of law we have established in this country and in this state.

I will see Mayor Franklin at the eggs and injunctions breakfast."

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GeorgiaCarry.org (GCO) is a non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and improvement of Georgia's right to keep and bear arms. GCO's mission is carried out through selected litigation, grassroots legislative efforts, and active participation with elected officials at all levels throughout Georgia.