

PRESS RELEASE

GeorgiaCarry.org Files for Temporary Restraining Order or Preliminary Injunction

Emergency motion seeks TRO or Preliminary Injunction to prohibit Defendants from enforcing their alleged "gun free zone" at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.

Atlanta, July 9, 2008: One week after filing a Federal lawsuit against Mayor Shirley Franklin and Atlanta airport General Manager Ben DeCosta, GeorgiaCarry.org (GCO) filed an emergency motion in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia's Atlanta Division seeking a Temporary Restraining Order or Preliminary Injunction against the defendants named in the case. GCO filed the motion seeking protection from the unlawful enforcement of the "gun free zone," which was declared by Mayor Franklin, *et al.*, on July 1st, the same day a new firearms law was enacted in Georgia allowing those in possession of a Georgia Firearms License (GFL) to carry in public transportation.

Under the new law, GFL holders may now carry firearms in public transportation provided they are not prohibited from doing so under Federal law. The non-sterile terminal area of Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport is not governed by Federal Law and is included in the definition of public transportation allowed under Georgia State Law. The defendants in the case argue that firearms are prohibited in the airport under Georgia's public gathering law, however Rep. Tim Bearden, who not only authored the bill but is a plaintiff in the suit, is quick to point out that the bill specifically lists public transportation as one of the places which is no longer prohibited under the public gathering code section.

The two sides will meet in court for the first time on Friday, July 18th at a hearing before United States District Judge Marvin Shoob regarding the emergency motion. GCO is confident that the City of Atlanta and Mayor Franklin will once again be reminded that Georgia State law trumps their desire to prohibit the lawful carrying of firearms by those in possession of a GFL. Bill Weeks, the Public Relations Coordinator for GCO added, "It is appalling that the Mayor continues her attempt to usurp State Law at the expense of taxpayers. We all know the financial situation the City of Atlanta is currently facing, and adding to that problem by fighting laws passed by the General Assembly and signed by the Governor just doesn't make sense."

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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.