

# FIREARMS INDUSTRY CONSULTING GROUP

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Pittsburgh City Council  
510 City-County Building  
414 Grant Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

RE: Public Hearings on 2018-1218, 2018-2019, and 2018-1220

Dear Members of City Council,

As you are aware, I represent Allegheny County Sportsmen's League (ACSL) and Firearm Owners Against Crime (FOAC) and recently became aware that City Council has decided to hold the Public Hearing for tonight, January 24, 2019, regarding Proposals 2018-1218, 2018-1219 and 2018-1220, in the lobby of the City-County Building, allegedly due to the fact that the Chamber has a capacity of 200 people. See, <https://www.post-gazette.com/local/city/2019/01/23/City-gun-bill-hearing-moved-to-lobby/stories/201901230143> and <https://triblive.com/local/allegheny/14535996-74/pittsburgh-moving-hearing-on-gun-ban-to-first-floor-of-city-county-building>.

First and foremost, we have learned from the Pittsburgh Director of Licenses, Permits and Inspections that the lobby's capacity is set at 200 individuals, no different than the capacity for the Chamber. Thus, City Council's statement that the Public Hearing is being moved due to capacity limitation is blatantly false and seems solely designed to suppress the voices of those wishing to be heard and who wish to ensure that the Public Hearing is properly televised.

Moreover, the seeming design to limit opportunity for individuals to be heard is supported by the fact that City Council is not making chairs and bathrooms available for the attendees, which

would otherwise be available if the Public Hearing was held in the Chamber. Although a couple benches are available along the wall, they do not appear to be American with Disability Act compliant. Additionally, City Council is purposely closing the main entrance to the City-Council Building (the Grant Street entrance) and forcing individuals to enter through the extremely limited access entrance on Ross Street, which is not capable of handling 200 attendees.

As the sole purpose of moving the Public Hearing from the Chamber to the lobby seems to be designed to suppress the voices of those wishing to be heard, while precluding the public from being able to watch the Public Hearing, we are demanding that the Public Hearing take place in the Chamber and that the Grant Street entrance be opened, so that the City Council does not further violate the civil liberties of the attendees. Please also remember that pursuant to 18 Pa.C.S. § 913, you must make lockers available, free of charge, to any individual, who wishes to secure his/her firearm or other dangerous weapon.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Until such time, I remain

Yours truly,  
Firearms Industry Consulting Group

  
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jgp/web  
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*That Try Men's Souls*