

Board of Firearms Permit Examiners

At a Glance

FRANK P. BLANDO, Esq., Chairman

Craig Fishbein, Esq., Secretary

Established -1967

Statutory authority - Connecticut General Statute Sec. 29-32b

Office address - 20 Trinity, 5th floor, Hartford, CT 06106

Number of employees – 1 full time, 1 part time

Recurring operating expenses - Personnel, \$106,116 Other Expenses \$12,314

Organizational structure – The Board is comprised of nine members appointed by the Governor to serve during his term and until their successors are appointed and qualify. The members are appointed from nominees of the Commissioner the Dept. of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Connecticut Police Chiefs Association, the Commissioner of the Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection, The Connecticut State Rifles and Revolvers Association, Inc., Ye Connecticut Gun Guild, Inc., the Commissioner of the Dept. of Mental Health and Addiction Services, and an appointee of the Chief Court Administrator. Two members of the public are appointed with at least one member of the Board who shall be a lawyer licensed to practice in Connecticut and who shall act as Chairman of the Board during the hearing of appeals. Members are volunteers and are compensated for mileage.

Mission

The Board of Firearms Permit Examiners mission is to provide a means of appeal, through administrative hearings, for those have been denied a pistol permit or had their permit revoked. The Board provides a uniform interpretation and application of firearm laws. Citizens aggrieved by any denial to issue or renew a permit under the provisions of Connecticut General Statute section 29-28 or 29-36f, or revocation of a permit issued, or refusal or failure of any issuing authority to furnish an application, may appeal to the board.

Statutory Responsibility

The statutory responsibility of the Board is to administer and enforce the provisions of Connecticut General Statute Section 29-32b. Under that section, the Board has the responsibility of making inquires and investigations, taking testimony and rendering decisions, in connection with appeals brought to the Board, by persons aggrieved by the action or inaction of the Issuing

Authorities. On such appeal the board shall inquire into and determine the facts, de novo, and unless it finds that such a refusal, limitation or revocation, or such refusal or failure to supply an application, as the case may be, would be for just and proper cause, it shall order such permit or certificate to be issued, renewed or restored, or the limitation removed or modified, as the case may be.

Public Service

The Board received 643 new requests to appeal the denial of temporary pistol permits or the revocation of a State pistol permits. The volunteer Board Members held 19 meetings and heard 177 appeals in administrative hearings. Of the 177 cases; 63 were in favor of the citizen appealing and 114 were in favor of the Commissioner, Chief or First Selectman's decision to deny or revoke a pistol permit. In addition, 209 citizens had their cases resolved by agreement prior to the administrative hearing. The number of cases requesting an administrative hearing continues to grow and presently there are 460 cases on the Board's waiting list.

Improvements/Achievements FY 2013-2014

New Appointees

In accordance with PA 13-03: An Act Concerning Gun Violence Prevention and Children's Safety, it was established that two additional Board members shall be appointed from nominees of the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services, and a retired judge of the Superior Court appointed by the Chief Court Administrator. Governor Malloy appointed the nominee of the S. David Bernstein, Psy.D. on October 9, 2013.

In addition, Governor Malloy also appointed four new members, Attorney Frank P. Blando to serve as the Board Chairman, Attorney James Greer as the public member and two new members from the nominees of the Commissioner of the Dept. of Emergency Services and Public Protection, retired State Trooper Gudrun Johnson and the nominee of the CT Police Chiefs Association, Chief Carl Rosensweig.

Records Management

In accordance with the CT State Library, Public Records Retention Management Program, the Board had Scan-Optics convert all legal opinions, administrative decisions, agendas and minutes to a digital format within an encrypted flash drive. All records scanned are searchable PDF files and are in compliance with the records retention schedule as permanent records.

Information Reported as Required by State Statute

The Board operates, and will continue to operate in conformance with Sec. 46a to 46a-78, inclusive of the General Statutes of Connecticut.

Membership

Chairman Frank P. Blando, Esq., Board Secretary Craig C. Fishbein, Esq.,
Dr. S. David Bernstein, James A. Greer, Esq., Ms. Gudrun Johnson, Mr. M. Peter Kuck,
Colonel Kyle E. Overturf and Chief Carl Rosensweig.