

Board of Firearms Permit Examiners/ Office of Governmental Accountability

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 \$112,074 Other Expenses \$11,355

Organizational structure – The Board of Firearms Permit Examiners (aka 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, Ms. Gudrun Johnson, Connecticut Police Chiefs Association, Chief Carl Rosensweig, the Commissioner of the Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection, Col. Kyle Overturf, The Connecticut State Rifles and Revolvers Association, Inc., Attorney Craig Fishbein, Ye Connecticut Gun Guild, Inc., Mr. M. Pete Kuck, the Commissioner of the Dept. of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Dr. Charles Dike and a vacancy to be appointed by the Chief Court Administrator. Two members, Attorney James Greer, II and Attorney Frank Blando are public members appointed by the Governor 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. Attorney Frank Blando serves as Chairman. Members are volunteers and are compensated only 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 local temporary pistol permit or had a State pistol permit revoked. In addition, 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. The Board provides a uniform interpretation and application of firearm laws.

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 inquiries 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, local Police Chiefs or First Selectmen. 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 eight Board Members are volunteers who served at 21 meetings and heard 425 administrative appeals in fiscal year 2015-2016.

Achievements

In FY 2015-2016 the Board received 597 new requests to appeal the denial or revocation of a State pistol permit or the denial of local temporary pistol permit. The Board held 21 meetings with an average of 20 cases scheduled per meeting. A total of 425 cases were resolved by the Board through administrative hearings. Of the 425 cases; 79 decisions were in favor of the citizen being reinstated or issued a permit, 91 decisions upheld the Commissioner, Chief or First Selectman's decision to deny or revoke a pistol permit, 236 citizens had their cases resolved by an agreement and 19 withdrew their appeal. Presently there are 791 cases on the schedule waiting for a hearing.

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. Charles Dike, James A. Greer, Esq., Ms. Gudrun Johnson, Mr. M. Peter Kuck, Colonel Kyle E. Overturf and Police Chief Carl Rosensweig.