

June 28, 2010 9:00/America/Hermosa Beach, California

Open Carry of Firearms Event in Hermosa Beach, California scheduled for July 10th, 11:00AM

Armed Civilians Exercising Constitutional Right for First Time in Decades

Hermosa Beach, June 28/SouthBayOpenCarry.Org - On July 10th, at 11:00AM, members of the South Bay Open Carry group will be openly carrying unloaded firearms while participating in a community clean up event originated by the group. This is the first known event of its type to be held outside of the San Francisco Bay Area since the open carry movement began there less than two years ago. Typical Open Carry events in San Francisco are informal gatherings at Starbucks, pizza parlors and other ordinary venues. Although, the Bay Area Open Carry Movement (San Francisco) held a beach clean-up event on Baker Beach in the San Francisco area late last February, the beach was located on Federal land.

The Hermosa Beach Police Department is preparing a map of the city showing the areas where it is legal to openly carry an unloaded firearm and hopes to have it posted online as soon as possible. There is some confusion as to whether it is legal to openly carry an unloaded firearm on the beach itself and so this first event will begin with a brief comment to the press at the corner of 8th St and Valley and then proceed along 8th street to the strand (the sidewalk running parallel to the beach) then head towards the pier plaza. This route has been reviewed and approved by the Police Chief. If the confusion regarding the beach itself is resolved and the Police agree that it is legal to openly carry an unloaded firearm onto the beach then the cleanup will proceed past the strand onto the beach. If not, the route will remain on the strand towards the pier plaza.

The Open Carry and Community Cleanup event is organized by the founder of the South Bay Open Carry group who had this to say "For the first event I really want it to be a community service event. That aspect of SBOC (South Bay Open Carry) is one of the main selling points as to why we are doing it differently than previous approaches of just having gatherings. Many people have expressed concern about UOC (Unloaded Open Carry) in general but are persuaded when I focus on UOCing while doing community service." - Harley Green.

After the initial meeting between the Hermosa Beach Police Chief and Harley Green where the event location and route was agreed upon, the Police Chief Greg Savilli made the following statement to the press "I too felt the meeting was productive. It is my hope the community and the Open Carry movement keep pace with each other so as to avoid any need for police intervention. The safety and education of the community on this issue is a mutual goal."

When asked upon the number of people he expected at the first event, Harley Green responded that it was his hope to keep the number of persons Openly Carrying a firearm to between three and five but there may be as many as ten or fifteen persons carrying firearms in attendance. He would also like for

persons to know that even if they are not carrying firearms they are welcomed to participate in the lean-up effort.

SouthBayOpenCarry.Org would like to remind the public that there are several areas within the city where it is not currently legal to openly carry a firearm, the most notable are the gun free zones which extend 1,000 feet from a K-12 public or private school. It requires written permission from the school to openly carry in these zones. Firearms transported through these school zones must be unloaded and in a locked container. Firearms transported in vehicles must generally be transported unloaded and in locked containers.

It has always been legal to openly carry a firearm in the State of California. In 1967 the California government overreacted to a left-wing militant group who lawfully carried firearms into the State Capitol building to protest a gun control bill targeted at them. The bill was passed and signed into law in July of 1967. The law required openly carried firearms to be unloaded within city limits and certain prohibited County areas. The law also allows a police officer to stop and inspect a firearm to verify that it is unloaded. The police officer may not lawfully do anything beyond what the law allows which includes demanding to see identification.

The McDonald v City of Chicago decision is expected to be released on Monday June 28th. It is possible that in addition to extending the individual right to keep and carry arms to the state and local governments it will also clarify where an individual may lawfully openly carry a loaded firearm for self defense. If it does not there are two pending cases which specifically address this issue: Nordyke v King and Heller 2 which should be resolved at the lower court levels in time for the United States Supreme Court to hear next year.

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