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City defends local gun ordinances in front of Ohio Supreme Court

COLUMBUS – Today, the Columbus City Attorney’s Office defended two of the City’s gun ordinances during oral arguments before the Ohio Supreme Court.

During a virtual hearing, the state’s high court heard *Ohioans for Concealed Carry v. Columbus*. In 2018, the organization brought suit against the City regarding ordinances banning bump stocks and restricting the ability for residents with misdemeanor domestic violence convictions to possess firearms.

“Gun violence is a national crisis and our City has a moral responsibility, as well as home-rule authority, to keep our residents safe,” said Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein. “We are focused on enacting rules that our citizens expect and defending the safety of our community, and Columbus continues to fight against this meritless effort by the gun lobby.”

The City focused its argument on *Ohioans for Concealed Carry*’s lack of standing in bringing the case, which was affirmed by the 10th District Court of Appeals in 2019. The City said that the individual plaintiff listed on the complaint has never testified in court that he either owns a gun or considered purchasing one, and thus has no legal right to challenge the ordinances. The City also argued that the bump stock portion of the complaint has been rendered moot because a federal law banned the devices in 2019 and the City subsequently repealed its related ordinance.

“This court has been very clear that philosophical opposition is not enough to bring a claim against the ordinance to the court,” said the City Attorney’s Solicitor General Rich Coglianese during the hearing. “If we open the courts to complaints where parties are simply not alleging an actual injury, we’re going to allow people to bring suit against anything.”

The Ohio Supreme Court is expected to provide their ruling on the case by the end of the year. Video of the oral argument [can be found here](#).

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