

August 6, 2019

**STATEMENT RE: LICENSING DIVISION CHANGE IN CARRY  
PERMIT RESTRICTION  
FOR BUSINESS OWNERS**

Effective late yesterday, the Maryland State Police Licensing Division eliminated the previous restriction imposed on handgun carry permits of “valid only while conducting business,” for those individuals who are business owners and currently have a valid carry permit. Existing carry permit holders who are business owners must submit a modification request to the Maryland State Police Licensing Division in order to request this restriction be removed. Information regarding the modification process is on the Maryland State Police website at:

<https://mdsp.maryland.gov/Organization/Pages/CriminalInvestigationBureau/LicensingDivision/Firearms/WearandCarryPermit.aspx>

This re-evaluation does not alleviate business owners from the requirement to demonstrate they are engaged in business activities that establish a “good and substantial reason,” required by law, for issuance of a handgun carry permit. However, it has been determined the “good and substantial reason,” for business owners who engage in these types of activities exists at all times, due specifically to their unique relationship to the business. Therefore, the circumstance-based restriction of “while conducting business” for documented business owners has been eliminated.

Business owners who apply for a handgun carry permit must still meet all current requirements, undergo a background investigation, in-person interview, character reference checks and prove they are a business owner with a demonstrated “good and substantial reason” for a carry permit. There are absolutely no changes to the vetting process.

This change does not apply to employees of a business who may have a carry permit with the restriction of “valid only will conducting business.” The change only applies to documented owners of a business who have or are granted a carry permit.

The Maryland State Police Superintendent is granted authority to make this change under the Annotated Code of Maryland Public Safety Article 5-307.

Greg Shipley, spokesman

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