

Gun control won't stop violence in New Orleans

N.O. Police Superintendent Michael Harrison said there were more than 30 officers on the block when the mass shooting on Bourbon Street erupted early Sunday morning — and only months before the City Council had passed a brand new set of gun restrictions — but neither of these measures prevented Sunday morning's shooting. So what is the lesson? It is this:

Putting police on the street and telling criminals they must follow gun control laws will not stop a criminal from committing a crime. Criminals ignore laws, period. It is foolish and naive to think that you will make them obey laws by passing new ones. Indeed, criminals not only ignore laws, they also ignore law enforcement officers, as the presence of 30-plus officers on Bourbon Street proved.

But here are two solutions that do work: Self-defense and constitutional stop-and-frisk. Self-defense works because if you present a defensive firearm to a criminal who is about to attack you, the criminal will likely run away. Constitutional stop-and-frisk works because a trained officer who

has spent thousands of hours patrolling the street knows a thing or two about street crime. When he sees, for example, someone darting his eyes from person to person while he clutches his pocket, and the pocket appears to be laden down with a large heavy object — the officer knows that this person is not likely an itinerant carpenter looking for customers while he carries a hammer in his pocket. More likely this is a person with a criminal record who is looking for a new victim while he clutches an illegally possessed gun in his pocket.

For these reasons, New Orleans should adopt a stop-and-frisk procedure, and citizens who have not yet learned how to defend themselves should take a free defensive firearm class taught by the Home Defense Foundation. These two measures can prevent crime. Passing more and more "laws" that are unenforced and simply ignored by law breakers, however, is a childish waste of time.

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Kudos for Weinberger letter on gun control

I read Mike Weinberger's letter of Nov. 30 regarding gun control in the French Quarter. I could not agree more with his thoughts.

Once again, the career politicians are trying to restrict guns from law-abiding citizens. Could these politicians be more simplistic in their thinking? Restricting guns will only benefit the criminals so that they can inflict more crime upon the citizens of New Orleans.

Get to the real problems that face the city and country, and make individuals responsible for their actions. No early release for being a model jail mate, serve the entire term of incarceration. The cost of a person in jail does not compare to the pain inflicted upon the community by their additional crimes.

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