

Sheriff
Alan Cloninger
Gaston County



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February 28, 2013

Dear Resident of Gaston County,

I hope this letter finds your family and yourself doing well. I am writing to inform you of a situation involving information that you have supplied to the Gaston County Sheriff's Office to receive a Handgun Purchase Permit and/or a Concealed Handgun Permit.

I have received freedom of information requests concerning documentation of who has applied and received a Handgun Purchase Permit and/or a Concealed Handgun Permit. After reviewing the Open Records Law for The State of North Carolina and consulting with an attorney, I have taken the position that your name, address, social security number and driver's license number are not information that I will voluntarily supply to anyone. I believe that under the law, there is an exception that authorizes me not to release this information to anyone. Also, this information is personal in nature and you have not authorized me to release it. I further believe that the unrestricted release of your personal information could jeopardize the safety of all the citizens of Gaston County.

I will release the following information; zip code, race, sex, and age of each person who has been issued a Handgun Purchase Permit and/or a Concealed Handgun Permit. I believe that this information complies with the requirements of the Open Records Law for the State of North Carolina. I hope that this information will satisfy the informational needs of the requestors.

There is always the possibility that I, as Sheriff of Gaston County, will be sued to be forced to release your name and address to anyone who requests the information under the Freedom of Information Act. If I am ordered by the Court to release the information, I will have no choice but to release certain information, as I am bound by the law. Should this occur, I will notify you by letter of the issuance of the order.

If you have any questions, you can call me on my cell phone at 704-913-0340 or my office phone at 704-869-6860 or you can e-mail me at acloninger@gcps.org

Sincerely,

Alan Cloninger
Sheriff of Gaston County