



September 5, 2017

A date has not been set for the next DNSIB campaign meeting. Although it might appear that things are quiet, there has been a lot going on this summer:

- June 8 Campaign Meeting
- Allies Strategy Luncheon
- Research Meetings May - August
- National DNSIB Work
- So Where Do We Go From Here?
- “What to Do About Gun Violence?” Event in Chicago
- Interesting Articles

## **June 8 Campaign Meeting**

We had an engaging brainstorming session about the “long view” in our DNSIB strategy. That is: how can we engage the public and the market to embrace user authenticating technologies? Ideas that emerged included: meeting with local security firms; developing stronger relationships with other local organizing groups (MICAH, Pastors United, etc.); working with Neighborhood Watch groups; and holding gun trade-ins.

Also, we voted to suspend all action on the campus carry petition that had been initiated by Metro-IAF. The number of signatories was disappointingly low, despite the hard work of our members. Lack of support at the national level was one of the primary reasons for the decision to suspend action.

## **Allies Strategy Luncheon**

On May 31, we held a second meeting with allies who had signed on with DNSIB: Mayor Barrett, DA Chisholm, County Exec Abele, South Milwaukee Mayor Brooks, and Wauwatosa Police Chief Weber. Also attending were Jonathan Lang and Ben Gordon from Metro IAF and Reggie Moore from the Mayor’s Office of Violence Prevention.

After discussion, we decided to table the ICC resolution and focus on getting smart guns for testing by Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wauwatosa, and Brown Deer. We want a strong

endorsement from ICC if we go back to them, and we want the police to want to test the guns. So, we decided to flip the order by testing the guns in a small group of jurisdictions, then take back to the ICC, and in doing so, make a stronger case as sharing best practices. Mayor Barrett agreed to sign a letter addressed to Common Ground, giving support for acquiring smart guns for research and testing purposes. This letter will be sent to gun manufacturers to “credentialize” us and endorse the campaign.

Although we are not currently focused on expanding the group of allies, we continue to meet with mayors and other officials as warranted (notes from those meetings are below). The allies group also decided to hold off on a smart locks giveaway, discussed at the January meeting.

## **Research Meetings May - August**

### ***Wauwatosa Mayor Kathy Ehley***

***DNSIB leaders attending: Laura Vuchetich, Linda Reid***

The purpose of the meeting was to update Mayor Ehley, who had signed the RFI earlier, on what she'd missed by not attending the luncheons and to let her know she is a valuable part of the team. We learned that she was not comfortable with the ICC resolution and that she believes the initiative needs to come from law enforcement. One of the more interesting insights she shared was that she, as a Democratic mayor, is currently fielding an unprecedented number of solicitations for her signature/commitment to campaigns. She has now become much more conservative on doing so, because she has found that some of them have other signatories that she wouldn't want to be associated with and/or she has become concerned with the methods employed by organizations whose missions she otherwise supports.

In other words, it was good that we spent the time to allow her to give us her insights. We need to stay in contact with our allies to hear them out and to make adjustments to our approach if necessary.

### ***Shorewood Village President Guy Johnson***

***DNSIB leaders attending: Rob Ater, Rod DePue, Mary Ann Steger***

The meeting objectives included 1) informing Pres. Johnson on the DNSIB campaign, 2) encouraging him to sign the RFI and talk to Chief Nimmer about doing the same, and 3) asking him to join the allies group.

President Johnson asked a lot of questions about the DNSIB campaign both nationally and locally. He seemed interested in all the details of the work we were doing. Robert emphasized that Common Ground was in it for the long haul.

Although he made it clear that he supported the RFI, he felt that he needed to take it to his village board and be able to explain it. He explained to us that he is only one of seven votes and wanted to get board approval.

### ***Oak Creek Mayor, Dan Bukiewicz***

***DNSIB leaders attending: Linda Reid, Jan Sandretti, Laura Vuchetich***

The mayor spoke extensively about the level of violence in Milwaukee and his concern for the young people living there. He is a believer in "doing the right thing," and seems to be open to supporting our campaign. He did not sign the RFI, but said he will review and consider it. He said he would talk to Steve Anderson, the chief of police, about DNSIB and sitting down with us.

***Glendale Mayor, Bryan Kennedy***

***DNSIB leaders attending: Jean Dow, Gwen Werner, Laura Vuchetich***

Mayor Kennedy's goal has been to turn Glendale into a progressive community with progressive leadership.

Mayor Kenney feels passionate about the issue of gun safety, although the city does not have many gun issues. In the past ten years they have had 3 gun deaths, one by suicide. They had a police officer shot about 2 years ago. Glendale has a large police force for the size of its population because it has so many businesses. They have 13, 000 residents but a daytime population that varies between 60-90,000. Currently they have a police force of 48 officers.

Reportedly, Glendale Police Chief met with Kennedy right before our meeting but was not present. Kennedy reported that Chief Czarnyszka is not opposed to market based tactics. He is concerned about the safety of police officers and doesn't think the technology has been developed yet to make these guns truly safe. Kennedy described the Police Chief as a gun enthusiast who has personally studied the development of "smart guns" and has even tried them.

Mayor Kennedy is interested in our proposed event where police can try out child and theft proof guns but their municipality has severe budget constraints and cannot offer financial help in the purchase of such guns for trial purposes.

Kennedy was reluctant to sign the RFI or endorse the ICC resolution before his Police Chief also signs on. He will meet with him in the next couple of weeks after which time we should contact him to see if he can add his signature to the RFI.

***Bayside Chief of Police Scott McConnell***

***DNSIB leaders attending: Michelle Waide, Gwen Werner, Mary Ann Steger***

Chief McConnell is open to the idea of gun safety but kept emphasizing the need for police to have simple responsive technology in guns. He was very impressed that 12 members of our committee took the gun safety training course. He said it is important for us to know about the experience firsthand, and recommended that our group have some experience with the Citizen's Police Academy.

Chief McConnell is open to an opportunity to try out a smart gun.

Chief McConnell accepted a copy of the RFI we handed him and said he would study it and then make a decision. He is willing to meet with Common Ground and other police chiefs in the area to discuss our campaign.

***Khary Pennebaker***

***DNSIB leaders present: Erin Stilp, Linda Reid, Laura Vuchetich***

Khary Penebaker is the newly-elected DNC chair for WI, but he's run for Congress before and has otherwise been an active member in Democratic politics, as well as many issues. He's a board member on WAVE and a fellow with Everytown, has testified in WI's legislature against gun-related bills, and is a regular speaker locally and nationally.

We had a lively discussion about challenges around reducing gun violence. Erin asked him what he felt would have the single greatest impact on reducing gun violence and he answered: universal background checks.

He responded positively and encouragingly to DNSIB's campaign. His perspective is, understandably, very political and his focus is, likewise, very DNC-oriented. But he did volunteer to put us in touch with a tactical instructor he knows named Anthony Sherman; and he also thought he could facilitate an introduction to the Mayor of Waukesha.

We kept the door open to further discussions and future cooperative efforts.

***Milwaukee Police Association President Mike Crivello  
DNSIB leaders present: Linda Reid, Donna Brown, Laura Vuchetich***

President Crivello has been in his position for 10 years and represents 1600 officers, forensic specialists, and detectives in contract negotiations. He also makes sure that officers are treated fairly when they're disciplined and works hard with the "branding" of law enforcement: how officers are perceived in the community. He's often at odds with both Flynn and the City Budget Office over staffing levels, as his goal is to have 2 officers in every car that goes out for the safety of both the officers and civilians.

He has not had smart guns on his radar; however, he acknowledged that he could see a great benefit to having a sidearm that would be useless if wrestled away from an officer. He agreed that our work and his would overlap in the sphere of creating a safer environment in which officers work. He complimented our enthusiasm and focus, and came away (we felt) with a positive impression of our work.

He recommended that we speak with Jim Palmer, head of state police officers' union.

***Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence  
DNSIB leaders present: Keisha Krumm, Laura Vuchetich  
Brady Campaign representatives present: Dan Gross, President; Brian Lemek, VP of Development; John Gruber, Organizing Manager;***

The Brady Campaign requested the meeting after being referred to us by Reggie Moore at the Mayor's Office of Violence Prevention. They were meeting with various stakeholders in Milwaukee, trying to build a public/private coalition of groups willing to support them in their efforts to go after bad apple dealers: a 5 year plan of public education, media coverage, shaming of dealers, litigation and organizing citizen action. Gross made it clear that the way they do things is not to sweep in and prescribe how things should be done; nor do they duplicate what's already being done. They need local people to make this a "from the ground up" sort of campaign.

The fact that the Mayor's Office recommended they talk to us – that they think we should be at the table – is, in and of itself, a very good thing. A concern is Common Ground attaching our name and nonpartisan reputation to something that might, outside of our control, get political. We are seeing where this goes and how it develops.

***Maria Lopez-Vento with Bader Philanthropies  
DNSIB leaders present: Laura Vuchetich***

Maria is the VP of Programs and Partnerships at Bader Philanthropies. Bader sees its role in the issue of gun violence in Milwaukee as being a facilitator: to get people together, broker meetings, support what is working, and encourage new thinking. Laura and Maria discussed multiple possible ways CG and Bader could collaborate. We will keep the conversation going with Bader.

***NRA Concealed Carry Expo  
DNSIB leaders present: Linda Reid***

Because the first annual CC Expo was being held in Milwaukee, it seemed like a good opportunity to find out what's going on in the concealed carry world. The impression was that the attendees feel they are the 'good guys' in a dangerous world and are not generally concerned about the safety of carrying around loaded weapons. A presenter who works for the NRA stated "always carry a round in the chamber". John Lott, an economist who heads the Crime Prevention Research Center prefers Pennsylvania's requirements for a CC license because PA requires no training and costs only \$20, which increases the number of people who carry. There were few vendors marketing any kind of safety equipment (locks, safes).

***"DNSIB Goes to the Gun Range" -- Wisconsin Firearms Training Center Firearms Class  
TWELVE leaders participated!***

It is important that we walk in to every one of our research meetings as educated about our subject matter as we can. Part of that is learning about guns themselves. So, a dozen of our leaders took a two hour class, learned a lot about guns, and had varying levels of success at hitting the targets. Every participant who reported back stated they were very grateful they'd taken the class. A few stayed after to speak with the instructors to get their insights on user-authenticated guns. These men were very generous with their time in answering our questions and agreed to meet with other leaders later this summer.

***Scott Scheife, Wisconsin Firearms Training Center General Manager  
DNSIB leaders present: Laura Vuchetich and Erin Stilp***

Although the meeting was supposed to be with the 2 instructors from the group class, we met with the manager of the center. Not knowing anything about us, he was wary at first; but the meeting ended up being positive, with a lively discussion. As most gun store managers are, he was skeptical of smart guns in general, although didn't rule them out entirely. He simply didn't think the technology was "there yet" and isn't willing to support it until it is. Erin and Laura came away with the impression that they'd perhaps not changed his mind, but had given him reason to respect the campaign and its goals.

***Helmut Brandt, CEO, Armatix  
DNSIB leaders: Laura Vuchetich, Joel Mosbacher (NJ) and Donna Weinberger (Cleveland)***

Joel, Donna and Laura had a conference Skype call with the CEO of Armatix in July. The thrust of the call: we need to be patient. He said that the US Government's Baseline Specifications

released last year required them to re-build about 80% of their gun. It was a massive set-back. They don't foresee having a product to sell until the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2018. They definitely want to participate in a tech fair, although he indicated he'd prefer to come solo in early-to-mid 2018 to do a presentation on the technology in general (without live firing); and then come back 3-4 months later with a gun ready to shoot.

## **National DNSIB Work**

Leaders from each of the DNSIB campaigns around the country divided up a list of gun safety technology innovators and attempted to contact each one to find out where they're at in the development of their product. We managed to reach a very good cross-section of the list, and one major theme developed from nearly all of them: funding. Everyone badly needs money. Even Mossberg's iGun – which has been around for more than 10 years now – needs funding (<http://www.fox13news.com/news/local-news/270535380-story>). The national leadership has discussed: Do we use our connections to approach people like Ron Conway (founder of Smart Tech Foundation) or Bloomberg or Obama and propose they be angel investors? Could we get \$1 million from our congregations and *thengo* to folks to propose matching angel investing? No decisions made, but funding remains a major hold-up for progress in this area.

Given that landscape, we might need to be asking ourselves whether we re-focus our energies on the bad apple dealers angle of our original 2-pronged mission.

That doesn't mean we don't still work on holding a gun demonstration/tech fair here in Milwaukee, though. Many of the groups we contacted were willing to participate in one, so there's still possibilities there. It's possible that an added mission to such a fair would be to get funders to attend.

## **So Where Do We Go From Here?**

Although Armatix is not coming along with a gun as quickly as we would like, they have agreed to come demonstrate what they have so far. The plan is to have another allies meeting before the end of the year, with the focus on planning at least 1 and maybe 2 events: a smart firearms expo and a smart firearms fundraiser/VC hook-up. Timing will be somewhat determined by what we can get Armatix to commit to, date-wise, for release of their gun

## **“What To Do About Gun Violence” Event in Chicago**

On Friday, October 13, 2017, the Seventh Circuit Bar Association Foundation will host a day-long symposium, “What to Do about Gun Violence” featuring experts from around the country. The symposium will be held at the University Club of Chicago, 76 East Monroe Street, Chicago, and lunch will be supplied. The symposium should be of interest to lawyers and non-lawyers. The admission cost is \$25, and you can sign up at [http://www.7thcircuitbar.org/event/GUN\\_Violence](http://www.7thcircuitbar.org/event/GUN_Violence). Let Linda know at [lindahreid@gmail.com](mailto:lindahreid@gmail.com) if you want to carpool or meet up to ride the train.

## **Interesting articles**

<http://www.crainsdetroit.com/article/20170709/news/633451/cabelas-deal-gives-startup-jump-sales-fingerprint-trigger-lock>

<https://www.wired.com/story/smart-gun-fire-magnets/> (For a summary of Armatix's response, email Laura at:[lauraukus@gmail.com](mailto:lauraukus@gmail.com).)

<http://www.dw.com/en/heckler-koch-quietly-becomes-worlds-most-ethical-gun-maker/a-40316221>