Press Release

Subject: Review Denied by Supreme Court

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Today, the United States Supreme Court denied review of the Ninth Circuit’s decision in the Second Amendment case involving Sheriff Prieto’s policy on concealed weapon permits. See Richards v. Prieto, 824 F.3d 919 (2016). The Supreme Court’s decision concludes almost seven years of litigation.

Although the other Sheriffs involved in the litigation decided to revise their policies rather than defend them in court, Sheriff Prieto is pleased the longstanding concealed weapons permit policy of the Yolo County Sheriff’s Office has been upheld.

On June 9, 2016, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, in a 7-4 ruling, held that there is no Second Amendment right for members of the general public to carry concealed firearms in public.

The Ninth Circuit agreed with Sheriff Prieto that California Sheriffs do not violate the Second Amendment by exercising the discretion under state law to decide how to best allow access to concealed carry permits in their communities. The Court explained at great length that regulations on concealed weapons have historically been upheld, both by the Supreme Court and many courts around the country. The Court recognized that conditions vary from county to county and that Sheriffs should have corresponding flexibility in addressing gun control. As such, requiring one to establish “good cause” when applying for a permit to carry a concealed weapon in public does not violate the Second Amendment.

Today’s Supreme Court denial leaves in place the Ninth Circuit’s decision upholding Sheriff Prieto’s policy, a decision that stands as the law of nine western states and is a leading Second Amendment case.