

AKTI Honors Americans on National Day of Prayer and Remembrance

September 14, 2001 — The American Knife and Tool Institute, speaking on behalf of this country's knife and tool manufacturers, distributors, retailers and individual responsible knife users, expresses its heartfelt sympathy for the victims of Tuesday's horrific terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, D.C.

We offer our condolences to the families and friends of those who were killed and injured. We offer our prayers and support to those who still do not know the status of their loved ones. We salute those police officers, fire fighters and rescue workers who gave their lives to help others. We also salute their co-workers and the thousands of volunteers who provide care, comfort and continue to risk their lives in the recovery efforts.

As U.S. law enforcement agencies formulate reasonable and rational policies to deal with the threat of future terrorist attacks, the American Knife and Tool Institute will continue to be a resource on responsible law enforcement efforts. We have also volunteered our support to the Aviation subcommittees of both houses of Congress as they establish new policies in this area. AKTI will also move forward with our four stated goals as we work to build and maintain our American way of life.

AKTI's goals are:

- 1) **To provide a unified voice representing the knife-making and knife-using community.**
- 2) **To promote the general public's awareness of the history and utility of knives as tools.**
- 3) **To encourage sensible knife legislation and responsible law enforcement.**
- 4) **To educate young people about proper knife safety and the responsible use of knives.**

On behalf of the American Knife and Tool Institute ...

Board of Regents

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Les de Asis, Benchmade Knife Co., President
Chad T. Vincent, Gerber Legendary Blades, President
Walter Gardiner, Imperial Schrade Corp., President
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- Jan Billeb, Executive Director*
David Kowalski, Communications Coordinator

Boston Ordinance Permits Recreational Knife Use

When Boston City Councilor Dan Conley proposed on October 1, 2001 to ban the carrying of knives with blades in excess of 2 1/2 inches, he only provided exceptions for hunters,

fishermen or those who needed to use their knives on the job. And he added the stipulation such knives could not be transported in vehicles unless going to or coming back from a fishing or

Boston Ordinance

hunting trip, or going back and forth from work.

In a November 29 letter to Councilor Conley, AKTI pointed out that ... “The proposed Boston ordinance 1145 is currently too broad to be effectively used against any specific group of identified criminals. What it does is make de-facto criminals of virtually every responsible Boston citizen.

“Whether that person is having a snack while watching TV in their home, buttering their bread at breakfast, pruning their roses in the backyard, scraping a sparkplug gap in the garage, camping, rock climbing, hiking, biking, jogging, kayaking, canoeing, or attending a knife collector show to buy or sell, your ordinance would be making them criminals subject to fine. If they are carrying a carving knife to grandma’s house to carve the Christmas ham, they would be criminals.”

Furthermore, Boston-area retailers, notably Stoddard’s and Chesapeake Knife & Tool were also concerned about their customers transporting knives they had just purchased, as well as liability issues.

Councilor Conley had already enlisted co-sponsorship of 11 of the 13 Boston City Council members. He would subsequently call a public hearing on the proposed ordinance for November 29.

AKTI Board of Regent member, Walter Gardiner, president of Imperial Schrade Corp., was one of the AKTI members who traveled to Boston to speak at the public hearing. Here is his report....

“The above-referenced meeting was held at 10:30 a.m. at Boston City Hall - Iannella Chamber. In attendance were the following people:

1. Councilman Dan Conley, Chairman of the Committee on Public Safety and author of proposed #1145- Ordinance prohibiting the carrying of knives or similar weapons.
2. Mr. David Marks, president and owner of Stoddard’s Inc., Boston’s fifth-oldest business selling fine cutlery and fishing tackle.
3. Mr. Anthony S. Fiotto Esq., attorney representing Stoddard’s.
4. Mr. Mel Herman, owner of Chesapeake Knife & Tool Co., an 18-store chain with one outlet located within the Boston City limits and another in a Massachusetts regional mall.
5. Mr. Jerry Rinder, Vice President,

“We spent a good deal of time explaining who and what AKTI is and that we are experienced in helping communities write sensible legislation that deals with youth violence — using our successful effort in California in 2000 and 2001 to save one-hand opening knives as an example.”

General Manager of Swiss Army Brands, Inc. (an AKTI Advisory Member).
6. Mr. Walter A. Gardiner, President of Imperial Schrade Corp. representing both ISC and AKTI.

“The hearing, which was being

videotaped, began right on time with Councilman Conley greeting everyone with a handshake, smile and a thank you for attending. Conley then informed us that the first presenter would be the Boston Police followed by Stoddard’s, ISC/AKTI, Chesapeake, Swiss Army and anyone else who wanted to speak. He then informed us that he had received a letter from Stoddard’s attorney and that he was favorably inclined to the suggestions contained in the letter.

“Lt. Kevin Foley, Commander of the Youth Violence Strike Force, a 28-year veteran of the Police Department, represented the Boston Police. Lt. Foley spoke about crime being down in Boston but murders and assaults with knives up. In calendar year 2000 there were 4 homicides committed with knives and this

CITY OF BOSTON

Be it ordained by the City Council of Boston, as follows:

That CBC, Ordinances, Chapter 16 be amended by inserting the following new language:

16-45

PROHIBITING THE CARRYING OF KNIVES OR SIMILAR WEAPONS

16-45.1

Carrying of Weapons Prohibited. No person, except as provided by law, shall carry on his person, or carry under his control in a vehicle, any knife having any type of blade in excess of two and one-half (2 1/2”) inches, (except when actually engaged in hunting or fishing or [delete ... in going directly to and/or returning directly from such activities, or any employment which requires the use of any type of knife), ... end delete] any employment, trade or lawful recreational or culinary activity which customarily involves the carrying or use of any type of knife, or (b) in going directly to and/or returning directly from such activities, or (c) if the knife is being transported directly to or from a place of purchase, sharpening, or repair, and if packaged in such a manner as not to allow easy access to the knife while it is being transported, ice picks, dirks or similar weapons that are likely to penetrate through police officer’s ballistic vests, or other object or tool so redesigned, fashioned, prepared or treated that the same may be used to inflict bodily harm or injury to another.

16-45.2

Distribution Exception. This section shall not apply to persons who, through entities or establishments engaged in a recognized retail or wholesale business, are involved in the sale, purchase or repair of knives for trade, sport, hobby or recreation, including without limitation persons engaged in the transportation to or from such entities or establishments.

16-45.3

Applicability. Nothing in this section shall be construed to enhance or diminish any duties of persons described in section 16-45.2, and this section shall not be introduced or cited in any proceeding as evidence of negligence, recklessness, or similar state of mind of such persons.

16-45.4

Penalty. Violators of any provision of this ordinance shall be subject to a fine of not more than three hundred (\$300.00) dollars for each offense.

16-45.5

Severability. The provisions of this section shall be severable and if any section, part, or portion hereof shall be held invalid for any purpose by any court of competent jurisdiction, the decision of such court shall not affect or impair any remaining section, part or portion thereof.

16-45.6

Effective Date. This section shall take effect immediately upon its passage. [Ed. Note: Passed 12/12/01]

year 13. Assaults with knives were up over 32 percent, numbering 1000 in 2001.

"Lt. Foley supported #1145 because they needed an ordinance to take knives away from youth gangs.

"Mr. Anthony S. Fiotto Esq., counsel representing Stoddard's was next. He did a terrific job presenting his argument and going over the letter submitted to Councilman Conley. Fiotto then asked to present a modified version of the proposed Ordinance, black lined, encompassing the suggestions in his letter. Conley not only agreed but was downright enthusiastic about seeing it. Conley commented that 'this is how good government works.' Fiotto's black-lined rewrite was very well received (in fact, it was adopted as the language of the new ordinance on facing page).

"ISC/AKTI was next. We spent a good deal of time explaining who and what AKTI is. We stressed AKTI's experience helping communities write sensible legislation that deals with youth violence, recapping our successful effort in California in 2001 to save one-hand opening knives.

"Mr. Mel Herman read a letter about why he carries a knife and how important that freedom is to him. Conley's reaction was very positive.

"Mr. Jerry Rinder gave background on Swiss Army, including the fact that they are the official knives of both the Boy and Girl Scouts. He also pointed out that Boston was one of America's gateway cities for European tourism and that a great many visitors carry his product everyday and would have no idea they are violating the law. This proposed ordinance would not be a very nice way to welcome them to the 'Freedom Trail.'

"Nobody else spoke. The Councilman informed us he was very pleased with the input at the hearing. There would be a re-write of the ordinance and he would send it to us."

AKTI ANNUAL MEETING
Thursday, May 30, 2002
4:00 p.m.
before Blade Show
Renaissance Waverly Hotel
Cobb Galleria Center
Atlanta, Georgia

AKTI Hires Lobbyist to Address Florida Law

AKTI has formed a Florida Committee and hired lobbyist Rick Watson of Tallahassee to address the issues raised by over-broad interpretations of existing Florida state law in the anti-ballistic knife case of *Florida vs. Darynani*.

A decision in the case (which now becomes law statewide) on December 27, 2000, by the District Court of Appeal of Florida, Fourth District, states: "... vendor was charged with violating statute forbidding manufacture, sale, or possession of self-propelled knives. Circuit Court, Broward County, ... found statute forbidding manufacture, sale, or possession of self-propelled knives unconstitutionally vague. State appealed. District Court of Appeal held that statute forbidding manufacture, sale, or possession of self-propelled knives was not unconstitutionally vague as applied to switchblade vendor. Reversed and Remanded."

In short, the Court of Appeals, contrary to long-standing practice and precedent, has ruled it is illegal to manufacture, sell or possess switchblade knives in Florida. AKTI urges all members of the knife industry in Florida and suppliers to the Florida knife marketplace to abide by this ruling.

Floridians, We Need Your Support ... TODAY !

AKTI has set up a separate fund earmarked for Florida. We need your financial support NOW to ensure that we can pay our lobbyist through the end of the legislative session ending in spring 2002. Send your donations marked "Florida Fund" to Jan Billeb, AKTI's Executive Director. If you have additional questions about our efforts, contact Stephen Corn at Guns & Knives (954) 484-2400 or David Kowalski, AKTI Communications Coordinator (715) 445-3781.

YES, I will join AKTI and help support responsible knife use!

Give generously! Your membership dues help ...

- 1) Fight for your knife rights...as we did in Boston, as we're doing in Floriday, wherever AKTI is needed!
- 2) Communicate regularly with knife users and the editors of more than 50 outdoor publications!
- 3) Work with AKTI state groups to organize meetings with their lawmakers.

Name _____

Company _____ Title _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

- Annual Ambassador Member (Individual) - \$35/yr
- Bronze Associate - \$100/yr
- Silver Associate - \$200/yr
- Gold Associate - \$500/yr
- Platinum Associate - \$1,000/yr
- Premier Member - \$2,000/yr (Voting Membership)

I support AKTI with an additional contribution of \$ _____

Check # _____ Enclosed for \$ _____

Visa/Mastercard Charge: _____ Exp: _____

Signed _____ Date: _____

Check here if you prefer to not receive any possible additional mailings.

Note: Since the American Knife and Tool Institute, Inc. has filed as a 501(c)(6) not for profit tax status, dues may be deductible as a business expense, but not as a charitable contribution.



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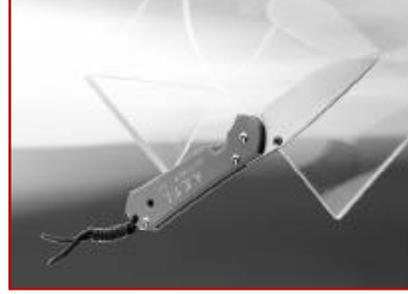
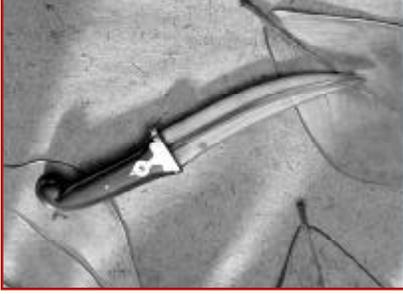
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Forum: go to www.akti.org and click
on AKTI Forum or go to
www.bladeforum.com
or knifeforum.com

AKTI Collector Auction Knives Support Our Important Work !



Thank you to those who donated the first four auction knives for a fund-raising effort to help carry on AKTI's important work for all responsible knife owners and the entire knife and tool industry. Thank you to our buyers! Clockwise, from lower left ... Chris Reeve's Classic Sebenza (September 2001), D'Holder's Drop Point Hunter (October 2001), A.G. Russell's Damascus Skinner (November 2001) and Al Pendray's Wootz Fighter (December 2001). If you would like to donate a knife, contact AKTI. To bid, go to AKTI's website at www.akti.org. We have only one unique knife available each month!