

For Immediate Release

From White Plains PBA

January 13, 2013

Dear Law Enforcement Officers, residents of Westchester, Rockland, Putnam and Dutchess Counties,

The White Plains Police Benevolent Association represents all police officers of all ranks below Chief employed by the City of White Plains, New York. On December 23, 2012, The Journal News published, in both print and online, the names and addresses of individuals who have a firearm carry permit in Westchester, Rockland and Dutchess counties. I have been informed that some of the names and addresses of the individuals listed are of active and retired police officers.

When this article was first released, I had a great concern for my fellow brother and sisters in law enforcement, as I still do. But as time went by I realized that this is bigger than us, much bigger. I started to think about the victims of domestic violence, how for sometimes many years they suffered to the hands of their abuser and thought, what if they, for their safety and the safety of their loved ones decided that they needed a gun for protection. They did the right thing and filed for a permit, only to see their name and address (2 days before Christmas) listed for the whole world to see, especially the one they are in hiding from.

The other victims of The Journal News are the legal gun permit holders and their neighbors. The Journal News printed a virtual treasure map for criminals. It lets the bad guys know who is vulnerable, due to not having a gun permit and where to go if they wanted a gun.

Since the release of this article, I have sent via electronic and regular mail my concerns with the release of such information to The Journal News. To this date, I have not received anything in response. Also since the release of this article some of my concerns have come to light.

Over the past three days the City of White Plains has had eight burglaries and attempted burglaries. Some of the victims of these burglaries lived two doors sometimes one door from an individual who was listed on The Journal News legal gun permit holder list. Just last night we had a burglary of a home that is a legal permit holder and was listed in The Journal News. The burglar attempted to pry open the victims gun safe, but luckily for all of us he was unsuccessful in doing so. But what if the burglar was successful? We would now have a criminal with a gun on the street and would probably see them go from burglaries to robberies or even worse.

I also have a question for the employees of The Journal News. At what point do you start asking for the list to be removed from the website? You have already had two incidents where your safety was in jeopardy while at work. If you don't care for the safety of others you should at least care for your own. Here's an idea, how about you print a map of the sexual predators next door and leave the law abiding citizens of Westchester, Rockland, Putnam and Dutchess alone. Oh yea that's right the predators have more rights than us.

In closing I am asking that all of us stand strong together and send a message to the Journal News that such irresponsibility will not be tolerated. Who do they think they are to put our safety at risk to sell papers? If you have a subscription I ask that you cancel until the map is removed and if you advertise, I ask you also cancel until they listen to us and remove the map.

Yours truly,

Robert Riley

President White Plains PBA