

Dear Chairman Siegfried and Committee members,

My name is Max Brown. I am a small business owner residing in Wichita, Ks. 08C072110

In October of 2008 I went to the Wichita city hall to renew a business license. Upon entering city hall I emptied my pockets in the gray tub and passed through the metal detector. Among the items I placed in the tub was a small pocket knife made by the Kershaw Company. My daughter had purchased this pocket knife for me as a Father's Day gift at a local store in Wichita. I went through the metal detector without setting off any alarm but a police officer said, "Another one." I asked what he was talking about and he told me that another person was "being detained" who had the same type knife as mine while a supervisor determined whether it was legal or not. I was detained with this other man until this determination was made.

The knife I had was a Kershaw "Chive". It is a spring assisted knife with a blade that is less than 2 inches long. It is sold at various stores all over Wichita.

While being detained another officer came in and showed us an ordinance which stated that switch blades could not be bought or sold within the city limits. I told him that the knife was purchased within the city limits and that the salesman told me it was not a switch blade and was legal.

After about 30 minutes a third officer came in and told us that his supervisor had determined that the knife was illegal. He read us our rights, hand cuffed us and took us to the county jail. We were arrested for "Possession of a Dangerous Weapon".

I was arrested at about 2PM and had I not been able to get ahold of a friend who is a Wichita Police Officer, I would have missed a business flight out the next morning. I was released a little before 11 pm.

I cannot tell you the amount of time and hassle that this has cost me. I have met with the Mayor and one of the deputy chiefs of police. The charges were "dropped" but to this date I still have an arrest record showing "Possession of a Dangerous Weapon."

Other than this incident I have never been arrested. In fact, I haven't even had a moving traffic violation in over 25 years.

It is my hope that some type of common sense legislation can be implemented which will not punish innocent law abiding citizens and free up our police to pursue the real criminals.

Sincerely,

Max Brown

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