Immediate impact of Palmer v. District of Columbia on Firearms Enforcement

Effective immediately, pursuant to the decision in *Palmer v. District of Columbia* issued on July 26, 2014, and the directive of the Attorney General of the District of Columbia, members of the Metropolitan Police Department shall not enforce D.C. Official Code § 22-4504(a) until further notice.

**D.C. Official Code § 22-4504(a)**

*D.C. Official Code § 22-4504(a) No person shall carry within the District of Columbia either openly or concealed on or about their person, a pistol, or any deadly or dangerous weapon capable of being so concealed.*

Residents of the District in possession of an unregistered firearm may be charged with Unregistered Firearm and, if applicable, Unregistered Ammunition if they do not also reside in a jurisdiction where they could legally possess the firearm. At this time, individuals who do not live in the District shall not be charged with either unregistered firearm or unregistered ammunition, but other charges may apply.

**There is no change to any other criminal charges,** such as Unlawful Possession of Firearm (§ 22-4503) (which, among other things, prohibits possession by felons, fugitives from justice, and anyone under a CPO requiring them to relinquish firearms), and Possession of a Firearm while Committing a Crime of Violence, or a Dangerous Crime (§ 22-4502).

**Scenarios**

You stop a man on the street carrying a firearm and:

Scenario 1: The man says he is a resident of the District, but the gun is unregistered.
   > You should charge him with *Unregistered Firearm.*
1. REQUEST FOR
☐ LOCAL LOOKOUT
☐ INTERSTATE TT
☒ ADMINISTRATIVE TT
☐ DETAIL (See Reverse)

2. TYPE
☐ ORIGINAL
☐ EXPEDITE
☐ ADDITIONAL
☐ CANCEL
☐ CORRECTION
☐ REPEAT
☐ REPLY

3. COMPLAINT NUMBER

4. UNIT NUMBER

5. ☐ NOT FOR THE PRESS

6. DATE OF REQUEST
   July 27, 2014

7. REQUESTING ELEMENT

8. ☐ FLASH TT REQUESTED

9. TO
THE FORCE: Impact of Palmer v. District of Columbia on Firearms Enforcement

10. NAME OF WANTED PERSON

11. WANTED BY

12. CHARGE

13. COMPLAINANT’S NAME

14. COMPLAINANT’S ADDRESS

15. MESSAGE

Scenario 2: The man lives in Vermont, which does not require a license or permit for either open or concealed carry of a handgun. You run his name, and no criminal record is apparent.
   » You should record any relevant information for potential further investigation, and he is free to leave.

Scenario 3: The man lives in Virginia, where no license or permit is required to openly carry a handgun. However, when you run his name, records indicate that he is a convicted felon.
   » Under District and federal law, felons may not legally possess a firearm. You should arrest him for Unlawful Possession of a Firearm (§ 22-4503).

D.C. Official Code § 7-2502.02(a)(4)
In addition, members of the Firearms Registration Section are prohibited from refusing registration of handguns solely on the basis that the objective of the applicant is to carry the handgun in public for self-defense.

Additional information about this subject will be forthcoming.

Kelly O’Meara, Director
Strategic Change Division

AUTHORIZED BY-BADGE-ORG.ELM.

Cathy L. Lanier
Chief of Police

BUREAU HEAD APPROVAL

FILE 07-137-14

TELETYPING NUMBER

DATE AND TIME

*** REMARKS

SEND-BADGE-ORG. ELM.