



Maple Shade Police Department
Township of Maple Shade
In the County of Burlington



Christopher J. Fletcher
Chief of Police

January 10, 2023

Dear Firearm's Applicants,

Today our team attended a statewide meeting with the New Jersey State Police (NJSP) Firearm's Investigation Unit (FIU) over the signage of Assembly Bill #4769 on December 22, 2022. This bill has dramatically changed the landscape with respect to the firearm's process as a whole in the State of New Jersey. The NJSP-FIU related that they were led to believe that they would have approximately 2 months of lead-in time to address a litany of items under this bill but by the time it was signed by the Governor, the bill now indicated that these changes would take effect immediately heading into a holiday weekend. What did not take effect immediately for example must be implemented within 7 months to include the creation of an online electronic Permit to Carry application system and the ability to obtain Liability Insurance for those granted a Permit to Carry as required now by this law.

Since the passage of this law, every agency in the State who issues permits for firearms has been challenged trying to decipher the bill and the many specific items that have changed. Items such as fee structures for both Firearm's ID Cards and Permits to Purchase a Handgun as well as Permit to Carry permits have all gone up tremendously. We are also now required under Permit to Carry applications to conduct interviews with 4 references (no relatives or relations by law) as well as the applicant's themselves. Further, we learned about the elimination of Superior Court Judges in the Permit to Carry approval process, shifting the responsibility strictly onto the Chief of Police as the final authority and with this in mind, it forced the NJSP-FIU to create a new Permit to Carry physical permit which we received today and no longer requires a Superior Court Judge's signature.

Complicating these issues are a number of legal challenges that are playing out in real time as we are trying to adjust to all the changes required by this law and any pending decisions issued by the courts. As such, we ask for your patience while we attempt to navigate through this ever changing landscape and know that our intention is to make certain that all law abiding citizens who desire purchase or carry a firearm legally in accordance with our constitution are given the opportunity and pathway to do so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Fletcher", written over a horizontal line.

Christopher J. Fletcher