

Teflon bullets—a sticky issue

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But Farmington officials, including Police Chief Robert Seifert, oppose the ordinance.

"The basis for my not recommending that the ordinance not be adopted is that you can't effectively control the sale of armor-piercing bullets with a local ordinance," Seifert said.

"It's going to take a state or federal law."

HOWEVER, FARMINGTON Hills police favor the ordinance but agree "it would be simpler if the federal government made it illegal to manufacture or sell armor-piercing bullets," said Sgt. John Kohls.

Neither Kohls nor Sgt. Gary Coss, range officer for the Farmington Police Department, see any practical application for the bullets — which have been banned by most police departments.

"They're designed to penetrate an engine block," said Coss. "We want something with a little stopping power. For us it's kind of useless. I can't think of any circumstance where we'd need these bullets. We don't go around shooting steel."

"Most people, if they're buying ammunition are buying it for hunting," Kohls said. "I've never seen a deer hide (itself) inside a car. You have to look at the purpose of this ammunition."

"We carry .357-caliber Magnum loads to begin with — most departments do. If you have to use it, it's powerful enough to do the job."

According to National Rifle Association Washington lobbyist Tim Baker, Biaggi has been the impetus behind all proposed federal, state and local legislation.

Biaggi, while working for the New York Police Department, was shot 10 times and is the NYPD's most decorated officer.

His bill, H.R. 5437, also would make it illegal to manufacture or sell bullets that pierce bulletproof vests when fired from a handgun.

"The Justice Department and the rifle association came out against Biaggi's bill because while it sounds like a good idea, and while the NRA would like to see (this type) ammunition limited to the police and military, the bill would have outlawed not only the bullets but many conventional handgun and rifle cartridges used by sportsmen," Baker said.

The Michigan United Conservation Clubs are among the opponents of Nash's House Bill 4334, passed by the House April 2.

Currently in the Senate Judiciary Committee, the bill severely limits the

manufacture, sale and possession of any bullet composed of less than 75 percent lead or aluminum or which contains an explosive agent."

It establishes a penalty of up to five years imprisonment and/or a fine of up to \$2,500. A business found in violation would be subject to a \$25,000 fine.

The MUCC and others in opposition contend "that if the bill is to keep killer bullets out of circulation in Michigan, it will infringe on the rights of legitimate sportsmen unless it more precisely defines the ammunition which poses a real threat," according to Nash.

Opponents maintain the bill should "keep the bullets out of the hands of all but a very few people who need them for testing purposes."

Saturday classes are explained

Adults interested in earning a college degree by attending classes on Saturdays can find out how to do it at two open house information sessions being sponsored by the Weekend College of Mercy College in Detroit. Potential "Saturday scholars" are invited to stop at the college's Conference Center between 5 and 7 p.m. on Wednesday, June 23, or Tuesday, June 29.

Information on how the Weekend College works, its admissions requirements and policies, financial aid and tuition reimbursement, as well as on the degree programs offered, will be available. The Weekend College offers bachelor's degree programs in business administration, public administration and health services, and an associate degree program for legal assistants.

"I have found the Weekend College to be absolutely great," said Gaye Balla of Walled Lake, a 1982 Health Services graduate, who is assistant to the executive vice president at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital.

"(The Weekend College) is convenient for a working student. The work experiences of the other students are often as beneficial as the texts and the instructor."

Pamela Musingham, a business administration graduate and professional seamstress from northwest Detroit, added, "Weekend College has allowed me to achieve my educational goals while raising two sons and maintaining my sewing business."

Secret vote probed

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Since 1951, 25 persons have served on the Farmington City Council, and six of the 25 got there by being appointed to the elected office.

"I HAVE NO qualms about the propriety of it," Bennett said of the secret-ballot procedure. "If I had had

(qualms) we wouldn't have done it that way."

Why is it important for anyone to know who voted for a specific candidate when the appointment was made in public session? Bennett asked.

Saying that he strongly objects to secret meetings, Bennett explained that he doesn't object to the use of secret ballots "because the results are very open; the decision was made in public."

The mayor acknowledged the state attorney general may have a different opinion on the legality of the vote.

Under state law the attorney general's opinion carries the weight of law until a state court rules otherwise.

"He (the attorney general) feels different than I do on a number of items," Bennett said, "the utilities and so forth."

City Attorney Robert Kelly said he can "visualize" the secret ballot "being a problem" under someone's interpretation of the state Open Meetings Act but refused to comment further until he researches the matter. Kelly was at the meeting when the secret ballots were taken and said nothing to prevent the process.

Clerk Josephine Bushey said Farmington City Charter allows for secret balloting to select a council replacement.

Farmington Observer

USPS 567-840

Published every Monday and Thursday by Observer & Economic Newspapers 36251 Schroeder, Livonia, MI 48150 Second-class postage paid at Livonia, MI 48150 address all mail subscriptions change of address Form 3569 to P.O. Box 2421 Livonia, MI 48151 Telephone 324-0502

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