

Episode 116-- Everything You Wanted to Know About Guns at a ...

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SPEAKERS

Davron Harris, JJ Janflone, Kelly Sampson



JJ Janflone 00:08

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JJ Janflone 00:37

Hey, everybody, welcome back to Red, Blue, and Brady. As always, I am JJ, I am one of your hosts.



Kelly Sampson 00:43

And I'm Kelly, your co host.



JJ Janflone 00:44

And together, today we're getting a firsthand look at the inner workings of something that's not familiar to me, the inner workings of a gun store. Now, Kelly, you've only been to

gun stores in the context of like litigation, right? You haven't gone for funzies.



Kelly Sampson 01:00

No, just for work.



JJ Janflone 01:02

And well, I learned how to shoot from my dad. I learned on his firearm. So I've never gone, I think actually, even into a gun store or a pawn shop and purchased a firearm, and I'm presuming for litigation purposes, you weren't purchasing as well.



Kelly Sampson 01:13

No, no, that would have been very interesting. And so as we work to bring more and more gun owners into the conversation about preventing gun violence, it seems important that we talk to the other side of the equation: gun dealers. And what better way to kick that off than by speaking with someone who has done this for over 20 years.



JJ Janflone 01:31

Yeah. Which is why I'm really excited today to be speaking with Davron Harris of Max Pawn, which is a shop in Las Vegas, Nevada, that in addition to buying, selling and pawning luxury items is also known for dealing and firearms. And of course, Mr. Harris has a wealth of experience in this area.



Kelly Sampson 01:49

Right and he was so kind to walk us through, kind of 101, the basics of buying, selling, and pawning and how that works at Max Pawn and what he wishes everyone knew about gun dealers in the process of selling and buying firearms.



JJ Janflone 02:04

Yeah, I feel like this is this is yet another episode, we've had a lot of these, but still like where I learned so much about something I know nothing about. And I can't wait to see actually what like the listener comments we get in for this one will be because I have a feeling that's going to be, either folks are going to listen to this and be like I've been to

1000 stores or they're going to listen to it and be like I've learned so much too.



Kelly Sampson 02:23

Right, and the pawning angle was particularly unique just because it's a whole other type of retail and especially when you're talking about firearms.



JJ Janflone 02:36

Mr. Harris, thank you so much for joining Kelly and I today. I think we're both really excited for this one because this is, sort of, you're offering us a peek into a world we don't often get to climb into but, honestly because we work for gun violence prevention nonprofit, is an area of the world that we should know more about. So to go ahead and get started. I'm wondering, can you just go ahead and introduce yourself to our listeners?



Davron Harris 02:56

My name is Davron Harris. I'm a pawnbrokers. I'm at Max Pawn in Las Vegas, Nevada. I'm, I won't call it the gun expert, I'm just one of the lead gun guys. You know, I still feel I'm learning a lot about guns all the time. But I've been in the pawn industry for about 20 years now, started in the late 90s, took a few years off, but I ended up coming back.



JJ Janflone 03:18

Could you break down like actually to like what what a pawnbroker does because I wouldn't necessarily hear like I'm a pawnbroker and think like, I can buy and sell guns.



Davron Harris 03:27

That's exactly what I do, I buy and sell all day long every day. So we don't just do guns. Max Pawn, we're a little bit different than regular pawn shops. We deal in high end purchases, but I started a regular pawn shop. So I learned about guns, tools, electronics, jewelry, anything you could imagine I've probably purchased or sold in my lifetime. Yeah, so it's basically it's glorified buy and sell is all we do. And we just happen to loan money to a lot of these people, because a lot of our customers actually come back to the items. So we'll loan them money to to get them through a hard time. Just like the pandemic, we given out a lot of money to help people float their bills or whatever they need. So and, of course we charge interest. That's where we make our money on the interest.



Kelly Sampson 04:16

Thanks for breaking all that down, and especially I hadn't thought about what the impact of the pandemic might have on your industry. And I was just wondering if you could walk us through the process of legally buying a gun at a place like Max Pawn like what is, how does that work when someone walks into the store?



Davron Harris 04:32

Well, we sell a lot of our, most of our firearms online, but we do sell in store. So to buy in the store, you have to go through the process, the background checks. If you, we run what they call the 4473. It's the background check information that the customer has to fill out. That's basic information: name, address, state, state of birth, are you a US citizen stuff like that, but then it also goes into a few questions, criminal background history. Do you have criminal background history? Do you have mental health history and citizenship like that. So we, we do that, once the customer fills that out, we have a portion that we have to fill out about the firearm and about our establishment. And we have to call it into the Nevada Department of Public Safety. So they run what they call the NICS check, the background check, and they will wait for a reply one of three replies: proceed, delay or deny. So once we get a, let's say we get a proceed, everything's good to go we get that proceed. Basically, the transaction is complete, just bring up the the firearm, sell the firearm, do the processor, ask a few basic questions to the to the customer and get a feel for them. But you know, they passed a background check. They satisfied your your requirements, they're good to go.



JJ Janflone 05:45

So like if I were to come in and and and I'm filling out this paperwork for you, I assume like I have, like, do I have to show you like my ID or anything to like prove that the stuff I'm putting down is like actually me or?



Davron Harris 05:56

Yes, great question. In fact, we, we identify you. We need your driver's license, you need, and if you put something down, say you just moved and your address doesn't match your your ID, you need something to say that, hey, this is where I currently live. We do get a lot of people from, we're in Vegas. So we're a transia town we get a lot of people come in from, that have just moved here from out of state, California or something. So they'll come in with a California ID or something and trying to buy a firearm, which California laws are so strict that we won't sell to you, you know, go get your Nevada ID and then come back.

Even if you provide a lease you could say, I've been here for two years, and I do this and I do that. Well, that's, that's two years long enough to get a Nevada ID. So, we we'll stop it at that. So but, we are trying to identify you make sure it's you. A copy of your ID is always taken when we sell a firearm. So the guy says, Oh, this wasn't there. Nope, nope it's right here.



JJ Janflone 06:52

Okay, so like I give, I'm just trying to walk through the process. So I give it to you, all the paperwork comes and then, if it passes, we're good. Although like if I'm a first time gun, if I, because I would be you know, buying you would probably try to like steer me in the right direction of me not buying something super complicated or, you know, giving me like some safe storage tip, and we can go into that more more broadly later. But then if I get a, if you give, if it comes back as a delay, or a deny, what is the process there? Because I can only imagine someone who did work in retail for a long time. People don't like it when you tell them no, or you have to wait. What is that process like?



Davron Harris 07:29

That is true, but actually, a delay is more common than probably a proceed, especially during the times now. Right? Right now it's hard for us to get ahold of the Department of Public Safety. So a lot of times we had to fax their paperwork in. So even in regular days, a delay is common, they come back until you say hey, we have a three day delay, which can be anything a lot of times it's a common name like a John Smith, they will get delayed and say we have to they have to research this person a little bit more. They have to see what's going on, make sure it's not this person that's has a warrant out for their arrest in in Nevada. So you know, they'll give us a, tell us we will call you back in three days. Sometimes they take the full three days, sometimes they call us back an hour later, saying okay, everything's good, but a lot of gun buyers aren't new at this. And so they've had it before, they'll get it before. Like we have one customer comes in and he buys or he'll pick up his firearms. He's like yeah, he's like, I just want to do it. I know they're going to delay me. You know, my dad's, he was the same thing and back in the day he did this or did that, no big deal. So, a lot of them we used to it, but the first time buyer that would come in and then they get a delay and then they get on board. A few red flags like, you know what do you need this right now? What's so important that you have to have it right now you know? What's going on?



JJ Janflone 08:51

Can you, even if they've got a delay, is it that after three days you can still proceed anyway? Or is that different in Nevada?

D

Davron Harris 09:00

By law? Yes, you can, you can proceed. But we wait, we will go ahead with it. Oh, we want to, we want to proceed. So, they can come back. They can I'm sorry to give for response they can even unresolved after the delay unresolved to us is like a denial. We're not gonna give a firearm, we're not going to sell a firearm. We're going to give them the information to contact the Department to figure out what's going on and get that straightened out and then we won't give it till we get a resolved resolution.

K

Kelly Sampson 09:28

I have one small follow up because you mentioned that you want to ask a few questions to get a feel for the customer. And I'm just wondering, like what, are their standard questions that you ask to get a feel for the customer, or does it sort of depend on what they're coming to buy?

D

Davron Harris 09:43

It's more like just getting to know them and just getting a feel for them and getting a feel of of their gun knowledge. Do they have prior gun knowledge? Do they have prior firearms? Do they know how to handle it? Do, you know, or how comfortable are they? Being an FFL holder, you want to be comfortable with who you you sell your firearms. So if you get the feeling that they might not know anything, you may want to give a few tips or help them out. Because there's believe it or not during this, the last 11 months, 12 months, there's been a lot of a lot of first time gunbuyers. So you, you ask them those qualifying questions or, and you see where they're at. And a lot of them just wanted to say, Hey, I just need to protect my house, I need to protect my family and this and that. And so you're, you want to give them as many tips as you can, or give them the right avenues to be able to go out and be able to handle that firearm correctly if they need to defend themselves in a situation.

K

Kelly Sampson 10:41

You mentioned that you had a license an FFL, a Federal Firearms License, and I was wondering if you could tell listeners, what is that exactly? And why is it so important to the work that you're doing?



Davron Harris 10:51

Okay, so a Federal Firearms License or an FFL, as we call them is, it's basically, it's just a license that it gives a business or even person the right to do business pertaining to firearms,. Anything, it could be manufacturing, could be selling, it could be interstate transports anything but to legally so purchase, do all that with firearms, this is what you need to do. So it's something that was enacted in like 1968 with the Gun Control Act. So it's pretty, pretty serious because getting caught selling firearms without an FFL, you're looking at some serious jail time.



JJ Janflone 11:29

When you got into like this field and this, this became your profession, and if people want to get into this, is there, like do you have to take, is it like getting sort of a professional license? Like you have to take classes to get like an FFL? Or how does that whole process work?



Davron Harris 11:44

The FFL is, it's the company's FFL that we're under. So our owner, when he got it, he had to go through the background checks, and he had to, you know, there's no no classes really. It's, again, going to, diving in into a deeper background than they do on the next check. So, it's to make sure that he's on up and up and the company's on the up and up. So, I didn't have to go through any training or I don't have to go through anything to be on it, but to be on his insurance is another thing. So



JJ Janflone 12:13

Yeah, I'm guessing that this is, this is something that sort of, it's very dependent on the business. And then like, what how much training somebody has is going to be based on like, on the workplace, rather than



Davron Harris 12:25

In others, there's some people that don't require any training. And there's some people that, you know, people that require a lot of training me, you know, I've had been around since I was little my uncle was a sheriff. So, I got my train a little bit from them. And I started it afterwards in other avenues to just uh, to learn more, you know, I love guns, you know, it's, shooting is a hobby, and I thoroughly enjoy it. So, that's where I get my training.



Kelly Sampson 12:55

So, we talked about one side of the transaction, what, what happens when someone comes in and they want to buy a gun. And I know you talked about how part of what you all do is sell. But part of what you do is also buy so I'm wondering if someone comes in and they say I want to sell my firearm to the pawn, what's the process there?



Davron Harris 13:14

It's a shortened process, it's nothing, it doesn't go as deep as we do, as it is to sell it. You basically bring a firearm to me and I could, I could purchase your firearm in probably three to five minutes, it would take me. You know, because I look at it, I inspect it real quick and make sure it's you know, functioning. Basically, all I need is your ID and write up the transaction, we take the same information, we even take a picture of the customer that, that sells a firearm to us. It's not as deep because the background check of the firearm happens after we've taken possession of it. Anything that we buy goes through the police department and national, national data checks to make sure that everything is good. So we know that before we sell it we know that this firearm, or not even firearm, we know that this electronic is not stolen, we know it's good to go and we're comfortable selling it. So, very, very short transaction compared to selling.



JJ Janflone 14:14

Yeah, but then a big I'm guessing that's a long, so, so like if you were to send it in and it comes back, you hear back from law enforcement that say like this gun has been used in the commission of a crime or it's been, it's come up as stolen, you know, someone reported it on its insurance. Do you then, what's the process there like, do you have to surrender it to law enforcement, along with all the info of the person who sold it? And then it's,



Davron Harris 14:35

Yes, yes. We it's also, we have, we pride ourselves on having a great relationship with a local and state police agencies and everything and so they tell us they call us, say hey this firearm was stolen, which has happened. Now this fire has been reported stolen, we need to come get it and this and that. Unfortunately, we, they don't know if it's been committed and used in the crime until say they pick it up off the street or something. And then they run it then which the ATF will call us and ask us questions about it when we transferred it or who we transferred it to prior, who transferred it to us prior. So,



Kelly Sampson 15:14

Is that something, does that happen with some regularity that people will bring a, will try to sell you something? And then it turns out that they they stole it? Or okay, maybe they didn't steal it, but that is a weapon that has been reported stolen?



Davron Harris 15:28

No, that doesn't happen, happen a lot. Very few and far between because I'm upfront with customers. You know, I'll ask him where'd you get it from? This and that. Well, I got it from a friend, or is it, oh, you got it from a friend or I bought it from somebody else? Okay. I was like, did you? And I'll ask him, did you take it to the police department to get a check before you, when you purchased it? And they say, no, I was okay, I want you to be clear that this needs to be a very good friend that you trust. Because if something comes back on this firearm, or the firearm was reported stolen, I'm giving the police your information. And you have explain that to them. So I'm very upfront with that when I do it, but they say, Oh, I just bought it from, from the store. Okay, no problem. You know, then I don't, there's no point to go into that.



JJ Janflone 16:12

You don't have to, like no one has to they don't have to prove like proof of sale for how they got it. Right? So it would be the same as if I brought in like, if I wanted to bring in a handbag to sell like a Chanel bag or something, I wouldn't have to show you the receipt from the store, you would just, you take my word for it, that it's it's valid.



Davron Harris 16:28

Exactly, unless it was unless it was brand new. I mean, you bring in a brand new handgun with the tags still on and hanging off of it. And, hey, where'd you get this? Oh, you know, I just bought it, okay? I'm going to need to see a receipt, but it's, I will tell you, it's very difficult to to steal a firearm from an establishment because it's, it's, so many eyes are on them and on you when you had that firearm. So I was, I don't expect them to be stolen. But sometimes I'll ask for a receipt, just like a Chanel bag, bring a brand new Chanel bag that's never been worn and still in the box, and I'm the one that opens it. I'm gonna say, hey where'd you get this?



JJ Janflone 17:06

How do you keep yourself safe, though? And in a business where people may be like,

certainly I'm assuming that the guns and the firearms that you're selling, you know, are unloaded and whatnot. But how do you manage, you know, if people are bringing guns into a place, which I'm presuming like has a lot of cash into it? How do you manage the security concerns of that? Because that I think is the like, my first thought is that that could be quite scary somebody coming in, you know, with like, a bag of weaponry. You know, how do you how do you manage that?

D

Davron Harris 17:41

Great question, we um, we have a security guard in our front door that, when they, if they see somebody bringing a weapon in there, their first thing is to say hey, make sure your firearm is unloaded. We tell the same thing when they call to come and bring one in, yes, just make sure it's unloaded. And once, once they get to the door, the security, you know, talking to them about it, unload it, will have sometimes they'll take possession of it, or sometimes one of us will take possession of it and bring it back. The first thing we do is, we of course clear it, and check it. We asked them if, you know, that you have any ammunition with you or, oh no I left in the car. Some, sometimes people don't know how to unload their firearm. So yes, they have it with them. So the first thing I do is unload the weapon. They don't get the ammunition back. So just let them know if you bring into my store, it's not going home with you. You know, we'll, we'll take it because they've seen things happen where people will slide one in and could do anything and try something so we always remove the ammunition from the whole process. So it does it, it can't get nerve wracking, like probably two years ago, we had a guy come in, didn't know if his firearm was loaded or unloaded and his gun malfunctioned and I couldn't couldn't clear it. You know, I couldn't check to see if there was any ammo in it. There was something wrong, and the guy's like let me try, I was like nope. We're not gonna go there. We're gonna, I'm gonna go ahead and put this in your car. I'll put it in your trunk, you can take it home, and then do it there. But, you know, he was a novice. He didn't know very much. So that's uh, that's how we handle that, uh, that situation. When plenty of times I've heard oh, no, no, there's no ammo in it, and I go to clear it and a round flies out.

K

Kelly Sampson 19:24

It's interesting because, as part of our work here, we come across those sorts of stories all the time where people are cleaning their weapon or they are trying to move it somewhere and they think it's unloaded and it is loaded and they end up hurting themselves or hurting somebody else. So it's it's interesting to hear that people will even tell you because they think it is unloaded. They'll say oh yeah, it's fine. And then if you didn't check, you might end up hurting yourself.



Davron Harris 19:52

It happens, happens more often than you think. You know, there's so many people that just put it up and never look at their gun for you know, my aunt has a gun under a bed and she probably hasn't seen it in 10 years. So she has no idea if that's loaded and there's so many people like that that now need money so they bring it in. Oh yeah, there's, don't worry about it, there's no ammo in it. I took the took the, they, call it, I took the clip out. There's no ammo in it. Well, there's, there's one in the chamber. So good thing, nothing happening. But yeah, those are the people that don't know anything. So they'll point it at you when they try to give it to you and this and that. So, that's why we like to take possession when they walk in if it's somebody that we don't know.



JJ Janflone 20:37

Yeah, that cause it's, you don't have to, there's no requirement to purchase a gun, there's no requirement to undergo like any sort of training or anything like that, right?



Davron Harris 20:47

No, not in Nevada. A lot of states that have the the the license to carries and stuff. In Nevada, you don't have to do anything. In Nevada, you don't even have to register a firearm. So it's very, very little training, error, anything that goes in with it. So you never know what you're getting in the person that's coming in.



JJ Janflone 21:05

If we could go back a minute too about do people pawn guns often,



Davron Harris 21:11

All the time, all the time.



JJ Janflone 21:11

Is that like a common, how does, how does that work to come back? Could I because I know like with straw purchases and things I can't you know, buy a firearm for my husband, could I, could he pawn it? And then I go pick it up like I do his dry cleaning? Or is that not?



Davron Harris 21:26

No we don't allow that. And technically, with the law, you can gift a, you can buy a firearm to gift it, but if, if you are doing that, we want the person to be there with you. We want them to



JJ Janflone 21:37

Yeah, I have to make it clear. That's what's happening. I can't, it can't be a sneaky, quote, unquote gift.



Davron Harris 21:43

So, when they pawn it, it has to be the same person that that pawned it, unless, God forbid something happens. We just had a situation like that last month, where one of our customers passed away. So his mother came in wanting to get him, but we required the, you know, the death certificate, and we ran a background check on her, but it's the same process to buy a firearm. You know, anytime you pawn one, come back to get it, we run, we do a 4473 or background check. You know, and we have customers that, I have a customer that probably pawns two, three firearms a month, and will pick them up, sometimes together, sometimes separately. So, you know, I tell him all the time, you need to get a concealed weapon. So, we don't have to charge you the \$25 background fake Brady fee again because you probably paid us, you know, three, four thousand in Brady fees in the last six months, you know, or last year.



JJ Janflone 22:37

That's so interesting, though, that so you and I presume that's checking to make sure that in the time that the gun has been pawned, no charges have



Davron Harris 22:44

Exactly. No. And it asks the same questions every time background of criminal history, mental health, drug use, all that. And so it's, you know, if he could pick up a gun today, he could do a Brady check today. And then he decides he wants to come in tomorrow and pick up another gun. He's gonna do it again. And he knows it. And all our customers know it, look every time you pick one up, you have to do it. And there's only one way around it and that's if you have a concealed firearms permit.



JJ Janflone 23:12

And can I ask what like, why is that? How does that work?



Davron Harris 23:15

The the state laws says they've already done the background check on the concealed weapons permit. And so that is the only, Nevada consultant permit is the only way that they can get around the Brady check. They have still had to fill out their information, then we still have to hold on to it, but it's just not ran through. We don't have to call them and they don't have to, they're not charged the \$25. So it's the, our, in Nevada our concealed firearms permits are valid for five years. So every five years, we go through our background check again. And you know, what's funny, I have police officers, I sell to police officers all the time. They don't have a concealed firearms permit, and their badges, their work IDs, that doesn't exempt them either. They have to go through the background check if they don't have a concealed weapons permit every time.



Kelly Sampson 24:06

Good, equality, keeping it equal before the law. One of the things, speaking of law, that I wanted to ask you about, so as part of our work here, we come across situations, oftentimes very tragic situations that arise when FFLs don't follow the rules and regulations for whatever reason. And some of them I think, I don't know if you see these stories coming through in your work, but some of them would probably like drop your jaw like situations where someone will say, I have a felony but I want to buy the gun and they'll sell it to him anyway. And so I'm wondering if you see those sorts of stories, what do you think about sellers or dealers who don't follow the law or the regulations in selling.



Davron Harris 24:39

I personally, I think it's horrible. It gives us a bad stigma in our profession. You know, it's already bad enough that you know, people think of the Pulp Fiction scene where you know, you just walk in and buy a gun and say, skirt around this. It takes away from everybody that is doing the right thing, that wants every legal gun owner in America to be able to enjoy that right or have that, right. So to try to skirt the law to make a quick dollar is just horrible. You know, you're gonna make this few dollars today or a few dollars tomorrow. You're not thinking about the people that you're putting in danger. Because, you know, I know some felons just made one bad decision. But what about the ones that are making those repeated bad decisions and going out and doing something, and they want to go out and rob somebody with the firearm that you just sold or they're trying to

go out and sell this gun to some other felons that shouldn't have it. So it's, it's bad on us all it looks, you know, makes us as the good firearms dealers look just like them, because, you know, they don't know what they're doing. What other people are doing, and they don't trust us, and they think we'll do the same thing if the right circumstance comes along. It's funny, because one of the things that we get asked when people are selling their firearms to us a lot is what's going to happen now? Is it out of my name? Or do I need to do anything? Do I need to call anybody? It's like they think that I'm going to run out back and sell it in the back alley to the first person that comes along. You know, they don't realize that, hey, not only this is your name being ran, the firearms being ran, and everything. So we're, we're good. And we're going to take that out of your name. It's going to be in our name, once we take it, he goes in our AD log acquisition disposition log, it goes in our log and whoever we send it to, it comes out of our logs to their log. So, mostly we send it to other FFL dealers in other states, when we do our online sales. So we've taken our, we're doing our thing to, to ensure that it's in the right hands, it's in the proper, we've gone through our proper channels. So no, we're not, I'm not just running out back and I'm not gonna sell, sell the guy down the street, he's gonna come in here and he's gonna go to this background check. Once I get the denial or find out that he's not on the up and up, I'm kicking him out of my store and alerting our department, our police department what's going on.

D

Davron Harris 25:08

Has there ever been like, are there any things that you just engaging with customers for so long, have just been like, eh like, this might be legit, it might not. So I'm just uncomfortable, so I'm just not going to proceed? Because I'm just I'm wondering if like if somebody comes in and is going to buy like 15 firearms all at once. Like, I would be like, what's, what's happening with your Friday friend, like what's going on?

D

Davron Harris 27:35

Oh, never anything that extreme. If it is somebody that's coming in buying a lot of firearms, it's normally another dealer from somewhere else, you know, so we have no problems selling them. But there are, there have been times that, you know, I've been shown a firearm, or somebody's been asking questions about a firearm, and then all of a sudden, they're talking to somebody else, and they're telling them to ask certain questions, but they can't talk to me. I was like, okay, so what's really going on here? You know, and that's when I say, hey, you know, this isn't a, what, you're, what you're trying to do here is called a straw purchase. You know, if he's a prohibited person from owning a firearm, and you're buying it for him, you're, you're in the wrong, but I'm in the wrong if I feel like it, and I sell it to you. So we're gonna go ahead and discontinue this, this sale, and

you guys have a nice day. So I've had those instances. I had an instance, where we called a 4473, and this guy was, he was wanted for some pretty serious crimes, and we get a delay and like, two minutes later, I get a phone call back said, hey, is this customer still in your store? Yeah, still here. Well, can you, can you kind of hold him? Can you kind of stall him out a little bit? We have some officers on the way to, to talk to him. Wow, okay. I'll see what I can do. I'm not gonna put my staff or our customers in danger. But if possible, you know, I'll try. So, so we've had some wild, wild things, but mostly, it's mild very, very, very tame.



JJ Janflone 29:07

I'm just, I'm sort of picturing it's Vegas. So I, you know, it could just be somebody one and was like, now my dreams to make a Game of Thrones chair out of rifles can come true, or who knows?



Davron Harris 29:19

We have a, like I said, it's never never 15 firearms, it's, you know, but sometimes people come in and they say, Okay, I want this one. I want that. And oh my gosh, this gun, you know, it's the holy grail can, I'll take that too. But it's, it's always, I'm sorry, not always, but it's more than likely knowledgeable, knowledgeable people. They come in knowing what they want anyway. And they just see some other thing. So



Kelly Sampson 29:47

You mentioned earlier that you kind of want to get a sense of the customer you want to understand their familiarity and comfort with guns. So what sorts of things do you tell people about you know, safe storage or gun safety more generally, some of the things we've already been talking about. I mean, I'm asking because Brady, we have a program called End Family Fire in it, we're trying to encourage safe storage to prevent the sorts of things that we're talking about, you know, unintentional shootings, or gun suicides. So I'm wondering how safe storage plays into your own experience with firearms, but also how does it play into the interactions that you have with potential customers, or I guess their customers, potential buyers?



Davron Harris 30:25

Well, two facts so you know, I'm the father of three, so I've had, my kids have grown up around firearms, I've always taught them about them. So they, they know about them, but

I've always taught them the dangers of them too. And it's always been important, mine stay in the safe. I mean, my kids are, my youngest is 18 now, and he still has no idea the the combination to the safe, so he couldn't get in if he wanted to. But I, every firearm we sell, every time we take one out of loan and give it back to the customer, we put the gun locks on it. So you know, of course, give the customer the key, but they have the gun lock. So I know that no matter what he left with, with that tool, and it is important, and I tell people all the time I keep it away from children just putting it up in the top of a closet isn't enough anymore. You know, make sure you go out and buy a you know, buy a little safe, buy something, even a little biometric safe. All you need is a handprint, pop it open. But so it is important to us. You know, it's God forbid, I don't want to see that happen to to any kid, my kid, your kid, any kid. So

K

Kelly Sampson 31:36

So I'm wondering, you know, what is something that you wish everyone knew about the role of gun dealers. And we've kind of talked about it already, but in preventing dangerous or unlawful sales and therefore preventing gun violence? Because I think I can see some people being confused or wondering, you know, what role, are those two things in conflict? And as we talked about, there's actually some connections there. So I'm just wondering if you could talk a little bit about that.

D

Davron Harris 32:01

Hopefully, everybody will, or not everybody, hopefully more people understand that, that we're not all gung ho just get a gun on the screen and by any means necessary. No, we, yes, we want to sell our firearms, we all want to be the number one firearms dealer. But we all, we also want it to be done right? We want nothing but responsible legal gun owners, you know, to purchase our firearms, and you know, prefer that their, their purchased for fun or hunting maybe, and not some seedy transactions going on. But you know, we can't always help that, you know, things do happen. But that's what we want. We're you look at, look at me, yes, I have quite a few firearms, but some people think just because I love guns, if they come up and tell me their opinion about not liking guns that I'm gonna on this huge rant of why you should have it. It's nice. That's that's your opinion. You don't like guns? That's fine. You know, I'm not gonna just throw mine in, my opinion in your face. And it's not that because I respect your opinion. So that's, most of us are like that. Yeah, there's some that are way far out and say, hey, what you don't want to gun, well what's wrong with you? No, we're normal people too. We just, we love guns. We have a hobby just like, I love to shoot, I love to fish. You know? Are you gonna be mad at me because I like to go fishing and eat a, my catfish? You can't hate me for that.



JJ Janflone 33:29

No, I think that and that's sort of the the conversation we try to have here a lot at Brady in particular is that like you can be a gun owner and be for gun violence prevention. And in fact, most gun owners are they're just not as involved in the conversation.



Davron Harris 33:43

Right, they think I think a lot of people think that gun owners are just, just so far out. And if you have you know what, what do you need? What do you need 10 guns for? What do you need 12 guns for? You know, it's like saying, what do I need 10 knives in my kitchen for cause I like to cook too. So I have many knives for many different things. But my guns are strictly for fun. I go out, you know, I go shoot some targets, you know, but it's just fun for us.



JJ Janflone 34:12

I wonder if as our, as our time together sort of draws to a close. If you have any thoughts on ways that people who work in gun violence prevention can better incorporate folks who are like gun sellers, people who are gun buyers, like folks who like this is your profession, but also like a thing that you enjoy doing? Like how can we better incorporate your voices and your experience into what we do? It's a little bit of an unfair question as I'm like hey



Davron Harris 34:40

It's tough, because there are a lot of people that are on opposite sides of the fence, and they can't see clearly enough that we have a main common goal. They can't see that we want people to be safe and we want, just like they want people to be safe. We all want that. So I think it just takes more understanding. It's like anything in the world, it takes more understanding more, you know, more, taking time to learn the opposite of what you think. And use common sense and put it together. I like said, I don't know if I told you the story, but I talked to a customer not too long ago, this week. He used to be an FFL dealer, he stopped being a dealer, because there was somebody an acquaintance of his that was rushing to buy a gun, wanting to buy a gun, wanting to buy a gun. He said, something just didn't feel right. Just didn't feel right, so he didn't sell him the gun. So the guy went bought a gun from somewhere else, I don't know if it was legal or not, but he went home, he shot his wife, you know, murdered his wife. He said, that's when he decided that he didn't want to do it anymore, because he wouldn't have been able to handle it. If, if it was his farm that had done it, you know, and so he's, he's one of those, he wants everybody to be safe,

you know, so I think there should be more programs or getting together on the situation. And it's like, maybe the NRA, and somebody if they could communicate and stop being so one sided, we may be able to get more done.



JJ Janflone 35:25

Because I'm imagining too for, for you and for like your co workers and your employees, that's got to be very stressful. That seems like a weighty thing.



Davron Harris 36:21

It can be you know, and that's why I say, I ask my own questions, or I try to figure out what's going on, if something doesn't seem right with the person that wants to buy a gun, or if they're, you know, anxious, or, or just jittery and just that feeling in the back of my head just starts going, you know, I'll remove the situation today, you know, maybe this is something we want to continue today, you know, let's, maybe look forward in the future. But, you know, and it's hard to, to turn away and somebody that you don't know, per se, what's going to happen, but at the end of the day, my conscience is clear, our conscience is clear. And we don't know. We may not we may never hear what happened or anything happen might not have happened. But we know that we're okay.



JJ Janflone 37:06

Well, I definitely hope that this is an area in which we can improve. And I think the first of many, many conversations and hopefully once it's safe too, I think I can speak for Kelly myself, and I say we would both love to come down and check things out.



Davron Harris 37:18

Same to you guys, thanks for having me.



JJ Janflone 37:23

And now, Kelly, this week's Unbelievable But story. It speaks directly about something that Mr. Harris discussed with us. And that is people not understanding how to handle their firearms when trying to sell them. So here's the story. We're in Manatee, Florida. I do like the name of that place. Right? It's sweet, but unfortunately, it wasn't Manatee, Florida that a 68 year old man unintentionally shot himself in the stomach during the Suncoast gun show.



Kelly Sampson 37:49

Is this during COVID?



JJ Janflone 37:51

Yes, was last week.



Kelly Sampson 37:54

I mean, we are recording this after the Super Bowl. And so I realize that Florida, you know, their crowds are operating differently there. But just wondering how a gun show happens during a pandemic.



JJ Janflone 38:05

Yep. You know, concerns, on the good news is though, that at least you know, on on this particular medical issue, he is okay. He is now in stable condition. But the bad news is how this all went down in the first place, which was he had taken his nine millimeter semi automatic handgun, he taken it to the gun show with the intent of selling it, right. But the gun show staff, in an effort to be safe, checked each gun at the door, which is something that you know, Max Pawn does as well. So they checked it. Each gun was inspected, the ammunition was removed and a zip tie was placed on the device so that it couldn't fire.



Kelly Sampson 38:40

I mean, if they're far this sounds like they're trying, how we got to this story.



JJ Janflone 38:49

Yes, well see. So the man didn't end up selling his gun. And so after the show, he went back to his car, and then he decided to reload his firearm. Yeah. And after reloading the gun, he then tried to remove the zip tie, which was, which caused the gun to then go off. And so he was injured. But luckily, he was in the car with family members who were able to call 911 for him.



Kelly Sampson 39:15

I mean, yeah, it's lucky that he was a family members. It's also lucky that none of those family members were hurt because it isn't one of those situations that we see about. But like, why reload the gun and then remove the zip tie? Just I don't know.



JJ Janflone 39:29

Why reload the gun at all in your car? Not a good idea. So, yeah, so I think it just it's one of those things that again, like it goes to show how important it is to be cautious and to know what you're doing with these weapons.



Kelly Sampson 39:42

This week's News Wrap Up begins with a discussion that targets the many Americans that are shot and survive each and every day. These individuals can be saddled with long term medical issues, as you can imagine, as well as high medical bills as I'm sure you can also imagine. Recently, Senator Bob Casey and US Representative Dwight Evans publicly stated that they intend to introduce legislation to create a Federal Advisory Council that would be devoted to making the process of gaining aid simpler for survivors of gun violence called the Resources for Victims of Gun Violence Act. The legislation intends to make it easier for those suffering to gain financial and medical support, as well as assist with things like transportation, and housing, which is huge.



JJ Janflone 40:25

And in Hartford, Connecticut, survivors continue to speak out. And this was really big news as well. So a survivor of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting, which occurred on December 14 2012, came out publicly to address conspiracy theorists who have denied the shooting, which, as many of us know resulted in the death of 20 students who are all between the ages of six and seven years old and six adults. This was the first time Ashley, the survivor had spoken publicly. And she did so in a video segment produced by the online site, Now This. In particular, Ashley stated quote, it is incredibly invalidating to everything our community has gone through, to everything other communities have gone through. I can't give you proof except for my trauma, except for the letters people wrote to us, except for the fact that I actually went to that school, you know, I can't, I can't even express how angry how emotional that makes me endquote. And of course, I'll link to this video where she talks about her experience more broadly in the description of this episode.



Kelly Sampson 41:17

It's appalling that Ashley had to make that video. And that links to our final news update, which is that Now This aired that video less than 24 hours after US House members voted to strip Georgia representative Marjorie Taylor Greene of her committee assignments, which included a seat on the House Education Committee. You can listen to more about Greene who has supported conspiracy theories that the shootings at Sandy Hook and Parkland were staged in our most recent episode number 115.



JJ Janflone 41:49

Hey, wanna share with the podcast? Listeners can now get in touch with us here at Red Blue, and Brady via phone or text message. Simply call or text us at 480-744-3452 with your thoughts, questions, concerns, ideas, whatever, Kelly and I are standing by.



Kelly Sampson 42:03

Thanks for listening. As always, Brady's life saving work in Congress, the courts, and communities across the country is made possible thanks to you. For more information on Brady or how to get involved in the fight against gun violence, please like and subscribe to the podcast. Get in touch with us at [Bradyunited.org](https://bradyunited.org) or on social at bradybuzz. Be brave and remember, take action, not sides.