

# Episode 145-- Revealing a Concealed-Carry Conversation

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## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

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## SPEAKERS

JJ Janflone, Kelly Sampson, Kris West



JJ Janflone 00:08

This is the legal disclaimer where I tell you that the views thoughts and opinions shared in this podcast belong solely to our guests and hosts, and not necessarily Brady or Brady's affiliates. Please note, this podcast contains discussions of violence that some people may find disturbing. It's okay, we find it disturbing too. Hey everybody. Welcome back to another episode of Reb, Blue and Brady. As per usual, I'm your host, JJ and I am joined by the amazing Kelly.



Kelly Sampson 00:44

You're very kind. Hi, everyone.



JJ Janflone 00:45

And today like all other days, we are joined by an amazing guest.



Kelly Sampson 00:50

Yeah. And I mean, I so appreciate that. Even though this podcast understandably, deals

with some very, very heavy things. We are in constant communication with people who are truly doing their absolute best to end gun violence. That is.



JJ Janflone 01:03

Exactly. People like our guest this week, Kris West, firearm instructor gun safety advocate. And you know, I'm calling him now a friend of the podcast, he doesn't have a choice. Hi, West. Together, we're talking about why some folks might practice concealed carry, or how people particularly those working to prevent gun violence, can better understand concealed carry and those who practice it.



Kelly Sampson 01:25

West, can you please introduce yourself?



Kris West 01:28

My name is West, I had previously ran my own concealed carry business, where I was teaching students from experience competition shooters all the way to, you know, the housewives, I never owned a firearm, let alone handled a firearm. And then for me, I've been actually concealed carrying now for eight years.



JJ Janflone 01:47

So can you break down for us what that means for you? Like, is it only on Sundays? Is it all the time like what what is what is concealed carry like, actually like for you?



Kris West 01:56

No, so when I can, so when I'm able to kind of carry with my job and have it with me even in the parking lot. So for me, it's as often as I can, and be able to kind of be able to fit that into kind of scheduling. And that's always kind of the fun part that we might get into later if where if I'm wanting to be able to have my firearm on me, I'd have to go all the way from work to home. And I know, I don't know how you guys are. But when I get off work, I like to be off work. And if I'm already home, I'm already home. So then I'd say, you know, an extra trip and extra steps I'd have to do.



JJ Janflone 02:30

Yeah, I'm not commuting an hour and a half of one way to get something to come back into the city. I don't know about you, Kelly, I know you're a little bit closer to the office.



Kelly Sampson 02:39

Yeah. Absolutely not.



JJ Janflone 02:42

Yeah. Once you've gotten on a metro train, you're not.



Kelly Sampson 02:45

Oh, yeah.



JJ Janflone 02:45

But so before you before we get into that, so for our listeners who are unfamiliar, could you break down actually what concealed carry is?



Kris West 02:55

So real quick, I'll definitely always give a preference. I even did this when I was still carrying is anything that we're talking about, is definitely never being construed as legal advice. I always try to live in the very technical world and, you know, be able to give the best advice. Obviously, I wouldn't even want to direct somebody to even a wrong site, let alone you know, saying "Oh, yeah, you can carry that in this state in this manner and carry it however you want." So I'll definitely preface that because of just that question. So for kind of a layman's terms, when you're concealed carrying, it's normally kind of hidden or cloaked away either, you know, because of a garment, you're wearing hooded sweatshirt, or even in a backpack. And so that would be something that would be hidden away. And then also, depending on your state, there's even been times where people have been, at least initially charged with improper concealed carrying, say, when they were trying to open carry because they had an inside the waistband holster versus outside the waistband. And basically what that would mean in layman's terms, is to where the firearm is partially hidden. So there where you can kind of see the top of it in the back of the frame, but because it is partially hidden, it's partially hidden inside your pants or in a

jackets that would be considered concealed carry, so where you're not able to see it or not easily see it.



Kelly Sampson 04:16

But I think that's a really helpful distinction, then, because it can seem like an obvious point, but to what you're saying, you know, if it's if you can't see the whole thing, then it's concealed.



JJ Janflone 04:25

I was just going to make a point that I personally tell people that Kelly has given me legal advice all the time on this podcast, and therefore I follow it.



Kelly Sampson 04:33

False.



JJ Janflone 04:36

I'm stealing your license, Kelly. Sorry.



Kelly Sampson 04:39

Yeah, no, JJ is right about a lot of things, but not that point. That's where I'm gonna draw the line.



JJ Janflone 04:46

Fair.



Kelly Sampson 04:47

But So one question that I would love for you to talk about. Obviously, you're not talking about the whole country or every jurisdiction, just your personal experience, but what processes do you have to go through to be able to legally carry a concealed firearm. And now that you've done some training for people who are trying to get a concealed carry permit themselves, can you talk a little bit about what a course looks like for someone

who is trying to qualify?

K

Kris West 05:13

For at least for Ohio, or how Ohio previously was and how other states are that aren't permanent, less carry, where you'd have to at least go through a course. And those hours could range previously, last time I checked, Ohio actually has it's an eight hour requirement, where it'd be a both a combination of receiving training on proper storage and handling firearms, ammunition, and also showing the attitude and we kind of discovered or discussed that previously, and why I failed my own mother. And then kind of the attitude where she had the great attitude, but she had deficiencies. And that's something that I'm also kind of grading people on is their attitude within that. And then also where you would be taking some kind of competency exam. And then also at least two hours of live fire and rain shine. And so like so that can kind of depend on your different states, where some within the states, you don't have to have anything other than being able to be lawfully allowed to carry a firearm, where you be permanent. Some of them, it's just a matter of filling out a form they do a background check to where kind of Ohio and other states, kind of in that middle to where you just complete a course, you would turn that into the sheriff's office, they would do a background check, or whatever the law enforcement agency that's handling that. And then, depending on kind of the timeframe that they have set up an expectation of turnaround time, you might have that in 45 days, to might take three months. So that's one thing I always kind of tell people and that I always urge people for concealed carry, because from the time you say, Yes, I want to conceal carry to the time you could be concealed carrying, I mean, that could be a three to six month gap. And sometimes longer. If, depending on when a class is available, you're able to get into a class, when you finally get to actually getting your license and then start caring. I mean, it could be at least three, six month process,



JJ Janflone 07:20

I didn't know that it took that length of time, or it could be that long. For folks.

K

Kris West 07:24

Right. And that's at least for going through and I mean, even just for scheduling your class alone, where most places are a weekend course. And so you'd have to whenever that weekend is available, and then going in the next business day to the sheriff's office. And then they're processing time. And then the big thing I always tell people especially I was thankful and I still brag about with Ohio, is where they actually had a Ohio concealed

carry laws and license application manual that was put out by the Attorney General. And even I was I was doing some research and I was seeing, you know, different states, you know, especially around Ohio, to see you know, whether it's the Ohio Attorney General website, or whether it's your state police website. Now one thing I'll kind of highlight now and what kind of do when we wrap up is referencing for US concealed carry is a great website to be able to go to that you can click on your state. And you can kind of see when talking about reciprocity, which state recognizes your license. And also that's when without getting too much in the weeds and seeds of whether it's a non resident license or whether there's a resident license. So me being Ohio, where I have an Ohio license, but if I tried to get one from another state, that'd be a non resident and so that's the thing that normally through your attorney general website or state police, a lot of times have the references to which states recognize which and that's a huge thing, especially when you start getting towards the east coast and New England where you might take a ramp and all sudden you're going from Pennsylvania and New Jersey and to DC and Austin, you realize you're in three different states or you're in three different jurisdictions. Not only then are we talking about cities that might have their own thing so it's always trying to keep up on the laws is almost a full time thing.



JJ Janflone 09:18

But when it comes to permitless carry what is that just basically what it says on the tin is that you don't have to go through this process. You don't necessarily have to take the classes. Again not you know, relying on you if I ever end up in front of a Judge Judy, for legal advice... but...



Kris West 09:36

I'm not giving you any legal advice and I don't think Kelly's giving you legal advice but with permitless carry just kind of as it says you're able to carry without having ever permit within that state. So for the simplest breakdown, if you're in you know one state that is permitless carry, you can carry throughout that state as long as you are lawful. You're allowed to be able to carry a firearm. That you don't have any disqualifications. Now, where it gets into where you have to understand is then if you're in one state of permitless carry and you can carry throughout the whole state, so let's say like Kentucky is, and you then come up to Ohio, you would have to actually get a license then through your state or another non resident license either way, you'd have to have a license if you're going into a state that does not, is not permitless carry but if you go from one adjacent state, that's permitless carry to another state, that's permitless carry, then both of those are permitless carry.



JJ Janflone 10:33

Okay, so so just for clarity, and this is why my teachers hated me in high school, by the way, Kelly and West, you're both getting this experience. So if I'm, like permitted, say, like in Ohio, and was traveling down to Kentucky, all things are gravy, because I'm going from permitted to permitless. But if I'm trying to do the inverse of from trying to go to from Kentucky to Ohio, I want to I need to make sure I have all my paperwork in order in Ohio in order to keep that train going.



Kris West 10:57

Correct. And that's, that's the whole thing when you're kind of doing interstate travel, to understand what is one state's to another state's. And then if they even, so even, for example, where I have an Ohio permit, or if I go and try to, you know, enjoy Illinois, then Illinois, not recognizing my permit. So even though I have a permit, you know, they're they don't have an agreement between the states. So it's, even though I'm permitted in one state, my permit doesn't carry throughout all other states. So it's definitely not like a driver's license.



Kelly Sampson 11:31

You told us a little bit about your experience of getting a concealed carry permit and some of the courses that you teach for people who are trying to do the same thing. And I'm wondering, you know, just in your own experience, again, not legal advice, theme of this episode, but what disqualifies someone from carrying a concealed weapon.



Kris West 11:47

So the big thing, that's definitely a great reaching off points, is looking at your the ATF form, that you'd actually be filling out to buy a firearm from a licensed dealer. So when you're looking at your ATF, form, 4473, which is the firearms transaction record form. So especially for us as we're our broad audience, it's national, if not International. So that's a big thing that you can kind of look at to see what is this qualifier, this is a form that every licensed dealer has to fill out. And so a lot of states will mimic those at least, if not, possibly, they could have a increased, disqualification. So at least a baseline is looking at the form of your ATF form, that you'd be filling out your 4473 that shows you a lot of your disqualifiers of what you can, or how would be disqualifiers.



JJ Janflone 12:45

So it's basically the same things that would disqualify you from being able to legally purchase. It's not anything dramatically different.

K

Kris West 12:52

It wouldn't, "be dramatically different." But you'd have to look at your state and see what is their different requirements, because then when you're starting in the States, that require above and beyond, so you want Ohio requires react, you have to have an interview, you have to have, you know, references, you have to have somebody you know, you know, government official or the sheriff's, the sheriff's office has to actually do an interview and kind of that's when you get into kind of your different states and whether they are "a may issue" you a permit versus "a shall issue." And so that's a big one that's kind of even been in the news of, you kind of get into big mess of "a may issue" state versus a "shall issue." And the "shall issue" is saying, okay, I've done all the requirements, I've done all the training, I filled out my form, I have no disqualifiers. So there shouldn't be anything else permitting me or preventing me from carrying so I should be permitted to have a permit.



JJ Janflone 13:55

I don't want to be like impertinent or rude or I, I want to be careful how I phrase this because I don't want to, like alienate anyone. But But West, like, if this is a processor, if this is something that, you know, involves so much back and forth, like why? And so I guess my question is why, like, why do it? You know, what, personally, you know, why do you carry concealed? Because it almost seems like it's getting up like a professional certification, you got to go from state to state, you have files that are related to this. And so I'm just like, why, why do it?

K

Kris West 14:33

For me, I mean, kind of the easiest summary is it's an additional step of for me, it's personal responsibility for the safety, and protection of my family, friends, myself. And then also it's better to have it and not need it than to need and not have it. So it's kind of referencing kind of New York of where you may live in the big city and you never need a driver's license. But the one time you're like, Oh, I want to go rent a car. I want to go do this and be able to actually have that availability And then for I mean, another thing to be able to look at is I think a lot of people don't even think is being able to address kind of those deadly threats or severe, you know, bodily harm threats that whether that threat is two legged, or whether it's four legged. And so kind of understanding that you know,

where you're truly fear of, you know, death to yourself, or bodily harm to yourself, and whether that's a person or an animal. And so another thing that I kind of look at, of why having concealed carry is where you might think, oh, I don't need it, I'm not going to go into this neighborhood, because I'm gonna go to dinner tonight. And then I'll suddenly realize, oh, gas is going up. And where I'm finding the cheapest gas isn't a place that you want to be at in the daytime, let alone at nighttime, and you're going after dinner. And then if you got, you know, family, friends, loved ones with you, that's even kind of an increased risk. And so it's just another option that should be able to have with you.

K

Kelly Sampson 16:01

I'm wondering, you know, are there places where and obviously, this is not? This is your opinion. It's not signing law, but I'm just curious, in your opinion, are there any places where you think, concealed carry wouldn't be appropriate? And if so, where are those places? And why do you feel that way?

K

Kris West 16:22

Sure. Question is, Where do I think personally concealed carry even I would think would be inappropriate?

K

Kelly Sampson 16:29

Yes, if there are places like that,

K

Kris West 16:31

I would say outside of maybe a waterpark, that's the only thing I could where, I wouldn't want that in my swim trunks as I'm going swimming. But really, even for me, any place I can think of whether it be the soccer game, daycare church, that kind of goes back to really a perception of reality and what someone might see as safe versus somewhat unsafe, where just this past fourth of July to where I was trying to make sure I'm literally conceal carrying where I've got a, you know, I have a undershirt I can tuck in, and then I have my firearm on me, and then I have an overshirt, where while being at the Fourth of July parade, it was getting hot. And so I kind of had made the crucial decision of "well, okay, do I continue to sweat be hot?" Or do I kind of, or I did take my overshirt off and I still had my tank top underneath. And someone actually noticed it. But it was a positive comments where they actually literally said, "I actually kind of feel better that I see people out that are, you know, carrying responsibly, actually feel better that, you know, you're around my family and kids and actually be a positive note. So, for me, I would say, No, I

think the only way that I would say like, oh, maybe that wasn't appropriate, is, you know, if the event is literally talking about gun violence, or gun suicide, that even for me would be okay, I think I'd be very monitoring, you know, where I would be having my firearm or not having my firearm.



JJ Janflone 18:05

Yeah because that would be triggering to folks, I would think, right?



Kris West 18:07

I mean, even the table things that I've done that were literally for suicide prevention, to where I try to make everything kind of bright and colorful, and kind of, you know, as an inviting for even, but still kind of demonstrating that's why I've got like, a one of my boys have squirt guns where I've drilled holes through so it's a bright, neon orange and green, where you can tell it's a squirt gun, but it kind of proves the concept of how that cable lock works. Because of still being able to find that middle ground



Kelly Sampson 18:37

It's interesting, I take away from what you said about the waterpark is because you can't safely there'll be no safe way to do it. Which is interesting, because JJ and I see stories every week, where people do try to carry in unsafe ways and suffer the consequences for it.



Kris West 18:54

So Well, actually, you could I more made that kind of jokingly. Because we're you can do a suspenders style holster. That is what they call trigger only. So it literally is it snaps around the trigger. And then the that holsters connected by suspenders style clip. So for gym shorts, swim trunks, day at the beach, you could carry I think it's more for me, it wouldn't be as functional because I wouldn't want to be carrying that as I'm going down the waterslide or swimming with it.



JJ Janflone 19:27

Yeah, but I think that that's just the point is that almost every week, Kelly and I have stories of like, "man tried to use Ziploc bag as holster." So I think I think pointing out to that, like, there's, there's proper ways to do these things. Because I think and you and I

have even talked about before, like another thing that we're just talking all about my anxieties and my need for legal representation in this podcast episode. So I apologize to both of you. You've come to a therapy session you didn't know you signed up for but like one of the things in Virginia that would get me like a fourth of July thing is, obviously you're, you're being safe and like so you're you're being appropriate. But I would look at like a cookout that folks are at if people were caring and go like, oh my goodness is everybody sober is everybody like acting responsibly, no one's going to take the holster off to go like play the slip and slide, that sort of thing. So I think it's just good for there to be gun owners like you in the space, that are like, No, you need to behave appropriately. With this, you know?

K

Kris West 20:27

I think a little bit of this is a kind of public education, to where I'm not consuming alcohol, I haven't had alcohol in hours, days, weeks, months, years. And so if I'm at a cookout, or I'm actually at a legit bar, I'm at a international beer Fest, but I'm not driving, I'm the designated driver, or just not, doesn't take on my fancy drink that day. And I have my firearm on me, I think that's, that's, once again, we go back to kind of a perception of safety in reality, and, you know, your anxiety of whether you think that person had it, you know, alcohol or not, I mean, that's one skin the kind of the perception of, I mean, that's what a lot of times if, unless I know, okay, I'm going to Uber, to and from the bar, or someone's picking me up, I'm not drinking that night, I don't play the drink and drive game at all. And so for me, if I'm going to, I'm not drinking that night and, and especially if I've been driving people around, you know, I have my firearm, we're going to karaoke at the bar, you know, unless that bar prohibits, I'm going to be able to exercise that, I'm gonna exercise that right to be able to do that and still play the fun community game where they choose to do that I can choose whether to go in there or not.

K

Kelly Sampson 21:44

And, you know, it sounds like your main concern is your own protection and protecting your loved ones and people around you. And so I know last time we talked, you kind of mentioned how as part of your concern for safety, when you go to your child's school or other places that don't allow firearms in the premises, you store them. And so I was wondering, you know, what is it like going through that process of storing your firearm? And then are you ever concerned about the firearm potentially being stolen? or unintentionally discharging? And how does that sort of factor into your calculus of when you store it, how you store it?



Kris West 22:22

So when you're actually going through that process, are you mean kind of step by step, or you meaning mindset,



Kelly Sampson 22:28

Honestly, both, I guess, would be interesting to hear about, to the extent you willing to share?



Kris West 22:35

Yeah, I mean, for step by step, to kind of keep it as easy as for sake of time, but step by step to where if I had the firearm on me, and I'm parked in my kids, school, or church, or even outside of convenience store, and to where I'd have to be able to, well, for me, I actually inject my magazine, get that, you know, laid on my center console, trying to get that out of view, the same time trying to get my safe, put on my front passenger seat, unlocking that, and then kind of drawing my firearm to eject the round, that I have chambered in there in my firearm. And this whole time, trying to keep that mindset where I'm trying to be extra careful with my drawl and where my muzzle is pointed. Because please keep in mind I mean, you're, as a driver, you're trying to work around that steering wheel. So not only are you in that seated position. But then on top of that you've got a steering wheel, you're trying to not be able to try to navigate or you are trying to navigate around. So then once I have kind of the magazine out of the chamber, you know, chambers out or the cartridges out of the chamber, and then putting that into my safe and trying to get that safe closed, and then getting it locked put away. And then I'm getting my kids out. And then kind of doing the reverse is then once I'm having my kids in where I try to get them back or I want to have them buckled in first. So there's no distractions, no all sudden kids keep popping up to the front. As I'm handling my firearm, so then I'd have to do the reverse of getting out my safe getting that getting the combo put in. For me, it meant to be able to have the firearm, rack the slide to the rear to be able to have it ready to put the magazine in a chamber around. And then to try to be as extra safe that mindset is I actually eject the magazine out because I have read I'd have a negligent or a careless discharge, I don't wanna have another round that gets chambered in there. And so then I would actually take the magazine back out, put my firearm in my holster put my holster on me and then I take that extra round that I started with and actually putting it in my magazine and then putting it into the firearm. And so the whole thing is really trying to be extra careful as I'm doing all this to making sure where I'm pointed because where I'm trying to point that at if I will have a negligent or careless discharge that if it went to would go into my engine block, not at windows especially not towards where my children are sitting in their car seats. And then especially for that mindset is where not only do I

have the safe, but I have a, you know, a plastic covered braided cable. So to where someone would break into my car as I'm in church, in school in the business, that they wouldn't be able to just kind of smash and grab like they would have to have extra tools with them besides just kind of their own body. And bodyweight.



Kelly Sampson 25:32

Thank you for going through that at the level of detail that you did, because I think it just conveys and drives home like how much of a responsibility it is, when you're carrying and how safety is so much deeper than just safety for yourself. When you actually have a weapon about how you store it and how you think even to hear you think about how if there's a negligent discharge, you don't want it to go out the window, you're in all these levels that you're thinking about as you're moving in the world. It's really important.



JJ Janflone 26:03

And I'm wondering is that when you're ever going through sort of this process, either A) you know, putting the gun away getting the gun out, or even when you're just like out and about in the world, do you ever feel that like people are like looking at you like, "oh," because I'll be real, I'll be like to be really honest, because I live in Virginia. If I walked through like a parking lot, and I saw a guy in a car with something that I would identify as a firearm, I would go "Oh, that's not good." It's like, that's just my automatic response. They could be you West. They could be lovely. Right? And I still in my head in the Wegmans parking lot would be like, Oh, that's not good. Because that's, that's my that's my gut reaction. Right? So have you ever had people sort of do that, like, a me type head peering into your car going like, hey, sir, what are you doing?



Kris West 26:52

Well, I mean, luckily, we're I'm down to a quick science, I'm able to do it. Quick, I have not had it, I've not had the cops called on me, I haven't had anybody approach or accost me about doing it. But that is definitely a real possibility. That as I'm going and keeping in mind where I'm trying to keep it pointed in the safest direction. To me, that's straight level with where my engine is, my dash. So I'm definitely not pointing towards the floor, because I don't want to point it towards the floor, my feet, my crotch, and especially through the car. And so then I owe it's almost in, "plain sight" as someone would be walking by. So it's definitely a thing of where I'm, it's not that I'm ever uncomfortable or feeling judged. Because of how I, I know how I carry my firearm and how I also carry myself and just my personality. Now I am aware, like I said that someone might see this

and they also might not approve sure, but I'm not ignorant about the world I live in. Someone feeling uncomfortable, that kind of gets into your interesting, kind of a relative thing of whether they're feeling unsafe, or whether that's something that triggers them and they're feeling agitated, and that's their hill to kind of die on of like, this is bad, you're making me feel uncomfortable. And that's where then kind of gets back to, you know, an interesting concept of, if all I had to do was from a most comfortable position, take my firearm while I'm in my home, write my save and put it on my hip, and never have to take it off except for to, if unfortunately, had to draw it or just put it back into my safe. So that's kind of interesting, kind of a dichotomy of your perception of reality versus perception of safety. And then kind of realizing what I have to do where I'm having to handle that. And how often I could be, I mean, even just looking at from picking your kid up from school, going to the store and how often are unloading, load and unload. And then even if you had to run into the store and kind of load and unload, we're gonna be doing that six, seven times a month to handle that and discharging or jacking around loading it in and doing that over and over again. And only just kind of your, your what that does to the firearm itself, especially the round as a whole it could be a whole nother kind of podcast of kind of handling of the technical things and caring for the firearm.

K

Kelly Sampson 29:25

We got to get on that at some point. A question I would love to hear your take on since obviously you are one of the best people in the country to understand exactly how to train both mindset and and functioning on a firearm is if you if someone said you know what West today you are, you're the king of the country is how would you design a program for concealed carry? Would it be different than what we've seen? Would it be kind of similar to what Ohio has now I'm just wondering like what in your ideal world would it look like.

K

Kris West 30:02

Oh man, if I was king for the day, I would hope I would try to make everybody happy. And why I say that is I'd put a lot, a lot of funding into public programs, I would put it into a lot of available programs for people to do with local law enforcements to be able to be able to have where you have family training about firearms. So if I was getting good, I'd be putting in a lot of resources, and to be able to have those availability, and kind of making that kind of the normalcy, you know, to where you want to be able to have a firearm concealed carry, we've got programs to be able to help and you can even literally train with law enforcement and even kind of run through scenarios with cops where you get to kind of be the bad guy where, you know, so already or, you know, providing where everybody's going to get good training, you get to know the cops, you know who they are, they could know who you are, you get to learn lessons from each other, you get to also

dialogue and network and be able to build that community. And then where I'd put resources, especially into family firearm courses, to be able to teach people now of course, if I was King for the day where, you know, of how, you know, where I wouldn't be going for any kind of registration, I wouldn't be going for required permits, but I would provide as much training available, and be able to put that and then also, I mean, that would be going into it and realistically, where, you know, I try to consider myself well rounded to where that even goes into looking at mental health and people. And I swear I don't deny of where that plays in with suicide, but I think of where, where they gets into a normalcy, because where I am my own individual. But it's funny that for me, though, of I think if we get to the monumental point to where everything, we have a great resource and outreach to where if you, if you are getting everybody to take a firearm, you're allowing them to be able to engage in that training, without being forced, or punished with that, that that would build in a mindset of how, how much to be able to handle that problem with safety, to or even just the someone, even kind of, you know, moving a firearm towards you, even at the gun range, you're still extra aware of that you take it to that heart, to where then in that unfortunate moment of crisis that even your mind has been adjusted to where even not even letting that firearm when it's disassembled, being pointed at you. So if I was king for the day, I would put a lot of resources into availability and training and closing those gaps between citizens and cops.



JJ Janflone 32:50

Can I ask a clarifying question real quick. And then I have another I actually have two clarifying questions about your kingship. So when you say when you say like permit, like when you're talking about like, like, in an ideal sort of system, not requiring the permitting, you're talking about like the permitting for concealed carry, you're not talking or are you talking about permitting, like period, like for to own a firearm?



Kris West 33:19

I would, if I was king for the day, you wouldn't have to obtain a permit to go purchase a firearm, you wouldn't have to have a permit to, to be able to, to be able to conceal carry, you would be able to still be able to go and buy a firearm, you should be able to conceal carry, but you wouldn't be paying which seems to be sometimes these you know, made up taxes, that ends up happening that you get, you know, taxes upon taxes that you know, and then hearing about ammo taxes, and now you're you know, more firearms or taxes on firearms, you know, having a tax on ammo, ammunition. So then to me that of being King for the day where I wouldn't have those because if you're, if you want somebody to go train with their firearm, but then their resources become smaller and smaller, to where it's already costing him extra to even not just purchase it, but to be able to be allowed to

purchase a firearm and then for them to be able to go get the firearm they want and they feel there's the best one for them and that ammo to go train with. So then instead of buying, say, you know, 200 rounds to really go and do that course for the weekend. They only bought a 50 round box,



JJ Janflone 34:36

But it seems like the majority of your king for a day plans, although I will point out those taxes would go to you as King. So you're harming yourself a little bit here. Is around sort of this normalization I think of of safety with with firearms that like that if you're gonna if you own them, these are the things you should know and even if you don't own them like these are things you should just generally know, right?



Kelly Sampson 35:01

Yeah, and I mean, I do want to flag that, again, people may not agree with you. But it's so important for people to kind of understand these concepts, especially those of us who are working in this space so that we can do our best.



Kris West 35:15

Right. And that's what I mean, if I was king today, I think that would be, I would also incentivize people that are never wanting to be around firearms, never want their kids to be around firearms. But if you're providing, you know, free training, if you're providing resources that the share of police or state police are providing that training for free, and especially, you know, you're focused on a family, fun, you know, safe training, that I think you would get, you'd get a better outreach of not only the gun community, but people that are not into firearms, because then they would feel, you know, a better connection, know I view those people, because I would see everyone that's coming to get that training, they would see everybody, you know, of how they're conducting themselves, and then that kind of brings government and individual citizens together, also.



Kelly Sampson 36:08

And then from one hypothetical to another, how would you feel if concealed carry were abolished, or or majorly restricted in some way,



Kris West 36:19

See this is where it gets into kind of as a nation, of one form or fashion, we always there's a word of the privilege is being put out. So if you've got a legislator, or political leader, who has the privilege of having their own security, or where they work at, they have their own security, then imagining, and then even further than that, is to where it really just becomes the privilege because then it's the, even to citizen to citizen if you've got a family member who's in a nice neighborhood. And they're like, well, they got restricted on carry. But why don't you move? Why don't why don't you do something to get out of that neighborhood? Why do you have your kids in that neighborhood, and that's getting into it's kind of a very speaking from the ivory tower. But and so then, like I said, you magnify that to a politician who has their own security, and they say, you don't need firearms, we're going to do away with it, or we're going to reduce what kind of firearms, or how much, or, you know, looking at magazine capacity, but then it's, you know, who's saying that, It's not my neighbor saying that to me, you know, that's a politician saying that, or someone in a nice neighborhood, it's easier for them to not care about what legislation is being put into, because they have that privilege of either being in a nice neighborhood that is patrolled, or they have their own security. So I definitely would not be of a fan of kind of abolished or restricted because of truly not understanding that, that ripple effect of how that then carries out.



JJ Janflone 37:56

Well, just I think it all comes back to sort of, if people if you're if you're carrying because of your fear, your desire to be prepared, in case of a scenario, do you ever think that you would get to a spot where you don't feel like you have to be prepared like, or would that take like massive changes and just the world and how it operates?



Kris West 38:18

I mean, I think it's just one I look at, well, I've done now a total of six different ride alongs with different law enforcement agencies. And so where I did a couple with city of Dayton, in the different townships, or the, the other townships around Dayton, and now, you know, to one that where I didn't think that was a bad area, and then you come to find out that actually, this gas station right over here is the first stop off the highway that someone takes an exit that can pull off and do can do their drugs, to then just traveling, you know, because where JJ I, you know, still learning more and more such personality, but surely, right here about your dad's little intro's at the beginning. I assume you have a great relationship with your father. And so if you for your husband, you know, giant assumptions is trying to get home in time and then you keep, you know, more stories lead to an hour or two. So where you were safely trying to get home by before sundown and try to get a six

o'clock, but all of a sudden, now you hit traffic, and now it's 10 o'clock. And then you have to stop for gas. So now you're shopping at a gas station at 10 o'clock at night. And so that kind of goes back to where itinerary changes. And so to me of not knowing what all you would face and like I said, whether it is two legged or four legged, being able to have that option. I don't think I would ever be in a position to where I wouldn't because even if I was on a cruise, you know, it still would be safety would be a concern of mine. Because it's being you know, not being blind to the world we live around.



**JJ Janflone** 39:55

My dad is going to be so excited that someone listened to his advertisement. He worked really hard. on it. Y'all didn't hear the outtakes. There were multiple voices that he used. He was really he was really shooting for a nice voiceover career for himself in the future with it. But I think so i think so for folks, you know, as our time together starts to draw to a close, Wes, like, I think a lot of folks who listen to this podcast regularly who are not gun owners or who are gun owners who are against concealed carry, I think they're gonna listen to this episode and be a little bit, you know, like, hey, like, I feel like this is going to be one of those episodes where we get a little bit of pushback, because I think that this is sort of contrary to the the opinions that a lot of folks who listen to our podcast regularly have. But I think that's why it's a really important episode to have, particularly as you know, you are you are not alone at all in your opinions. And so I think when we're talking about concealed carry, and communities that were like lots of folks, as you pointed out, like, you've never had anybody stop you, right. And I know, in my neighborhood, someone next door would have a post up already complaining, because they noticed that my trash can doesn't go out quick enough. So I know that they would, they would get you. Right. So it's, it's I think it's just really important that for our listeners to get that there are these different perspectives out there, and that you can have a perfectly lovely conversation with people who you agree with wholeheartedly on stuff like end family fire, and then you maybe disagree with on the concealed carry angle, and you can still have a conversation and hang out and have a nice time. Right, like, and so I just, I really want to stress to our listeners, like, this is important. So sort of then continuing in this vein, I'm I'm really curious what you think that people get wrong about concealed carry more broadly, or like, especially gun violence prevention groups, like advocates like what who don't participate in concealed carry, like, what are they getting wrong?



**Kris West** 42:00

I would say I definitely think from the top is understanding that it's it's multi spectrum. So whether you're looking at how someone gets a firearm, the training they're getting, and then also how they're even storing it, I think, where I kind of give the equate of, you know,

of absence education, or sex education in school, that if you're only teaching, you know, only sex after marriage, then, you know, for the firearm world, if you're only teaching all firearm should be unloaded, and ammunition, and firearms loaded up separately, then you're you're denying the reality of that people do have a firearm loaded and why they choose to, but you can do it safely. But understanding the risks, and understanding, you know, the training with that, and kind of understanding that, you know, you it's not it's not black and white, and it doesn't have to be black and white. And there can be multiple options, with a focus in safety, to where I can still have a firearm, locked and loaded and ready to go. But my kids can't get to it. You know, it's tethered down, or it's an you know, it's in a quick action safe. And I think, for me, I know the thing that I laugh of kind of hearing different podcasts and different thing is definitely carrying a firearm isn't isn't my man card, and whether the firearm industry has had those ads, but at least 2021 that's not what it is. So if anything, it's interesting thing where it's actually almost a a woman empowerment, you know, of being able to have that great equalizer to where giving great benefit out to JJ that I mean, for me, I'm six foot two 300 pounds. And let's say you all of a sudden got the concealed carry bug and started carrying and doing traveling and realize, okay, I want it I don't necessarily need it in my everyday but I want it for to be able to have with me when we go to travel and be able to have that option. That if we look at a case, and let's say, both of us in one weekend, have to use firearms, you've got six foot two 300 pound male, and then you've got JJ who I assume is much smaller than me, you know, theres already that assumption. And that's already a defense attorneys looking at that, more than looking at a jury in a public opinion, which no matter what carries into that jury. And so I've understanding that there is still a for me, that is at least on my mind, you know, when if, if unfortunately I'd have to use my firearm, but I choose to use it, I'm probably going to be under larger scrutiny as a big, male, big tall male. And so understanding why this isn't just an easy choice that I make.



JJ Janflone 44:37

Well, I appreciate you didn't bring it into like us getting into a physical altercation because I may only be five four, but I there's a lot of scrappiness that I would like to think that I maintained but I but I do think that while while I would disagree with you, and that's a whole podcast about the women's empowerment angle and we can duke it out that way. I would say I do think you bring up an interesting point. And it's a point that you sort of brought up earlier when we were talking about, like sort of the finances that are attached to this, which I think that there there is a difference in how folks perceive concealed carry, like people who are who are participating in concealed carry, based on things like class and gender and race. Like I think that that, like that's and that's being honest, like how people are going to respond to you how that how the state's going to

respond to you if you do have to pull your weapon like, and so I think it's again, it's just I think it's one of those things where we've got to talk about, because it may not I don't I certainly don't think I would identify it not as your main part, but for some folks it is. And so I think it's the same way that some folks, you know, a car is very much tied to like their perception of self and other other people with other things.



Kris West 45:48

And that's where I say, I'm not saying, but I'm definitely looking at it when you've got pink guns, and you've got different more, you know, a Tiffany blue gun holster combo. That's definitely, you know, the gun community has looked to go away, we want women to be able to carry also. So it's definitely, you know, if there's pink guns out there, I don't think anybody would say that your man card carrying a pink gun. If you bought it for me, I would carry it. But that's my CounterPoint.



JJ Janflone 46:20

I would just say that's, that's capitalism, profiting off of fears. But, for another time, right. Yeah. But I think that that's the thing here, right, is that you can't forget that these things are they're emotional for people like but that doesn't mean that people are silly, or like don't know what they're talking about. It's just that people have different responses and different emotions, right.



Kelly Sampson 46:46

Thank you so much for coming on. It's always so interesting and educational, to talk to you and hear your perspective.



JJ Janflone 46:58

Kelly, here we go.



Kelly Sampson 47:00

Oh, no. Whatever you say, here we go. I know. I'm about to hear something wild.



JJ Janflone 47:05

Yeah. So this is an unfortunate first for this podcast, but I really do think really sadly, not the last time we're going to talk about this



Kelly Sampson 47:12

A first? Yep, yeah. Okay.



JJ Janflone 47:14

Yep. This story comes to us out of Olido, Ohio, so their 16 year old student was caught smoking marijuana in the bathroom, which, you know, because of that getting caught, he got pulled in by the Dean, and his bag was searched.



Kelly Sampson 47:27

Let me ask they found a gun?



JJ Janflone 47:30

They found a loaded nine millimeter ghost gun. And for those of you unfamiliar, go listen to our podcast episodes on it, people. But anyway, ghost guns are fully functional firearms that are assembled at home using parts and kits. They're super easy to put together. They lack a serial number, and they're untraceable so no one got hurt in this case, which is really great. But the young man is now facing disciplinary action. And understandably, people that school got really frightened.



Kelly Sampson 47:57

Yeah, I mean, it's terrifying. Like and it just goes to show speaking of podcast episodes, what our own Team Enough Stephen Abrams proved while back and for those of you don't know, Stephen, at the time that he did this was in high school, but he showed just how easy it is for a young person to get a ghost gun. And there's actually a video of him buying a ghost gun online and getting it delivered to his home at 17. So listeners should definitely check out that video if they haven't seen it because it shows exactly how a situation like this would come about.



JJ Janflone 48:32

So if I could, I'd like to begin with a new story for my hometown, the borough in East Washington, Pennsylvania, recently renamed the East Washington borough park to Nicholas Coomer Park, Nick Coomer, who graduated from my high school in 2012. Wash High was a graduate student at St. Francis University's Cancer Care program when he was killed while saving two of his co workers during the 2019 mass shooting in Dayton, Ohio. For those of you who are unaware or who honestly, there's so many mass shootings that things kind of get lost. For that one on the evening of August 4 2019, a 24 year old gunman shot and killed nine people and injured 17 others near the entrance of the Ned Peppers bar in Dayton's popular Oregon district.



Kelly Sampson 49:20

Yeah, it's I've heard you talk about your hometown many times on and off the podcast. I can imagine how much Nick meant to everyone there. And it's really tragic. And you know, kind of keeping with the theme of honoring heroes. This week, the US House of Representatives passed the John Lewis Voting Rights Act, named after representative John Lewis in recognition of his lifetime of service and sacrifice to our democracy into equal justice. This legislation will help to restore and strengthen provisions of the 1965 Voting Rights Act and protect voters nationwide. But we need the Senate to pass it to make that happen.



JJ Janflone 50:02

Yeah, we need folks in the Senate to be a fraction of as brave as John Lewis. Yes. And get this done. Want to 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 4807443452, with your thoughts, questions, concerns, ideas, whatever! Kelly and I are standing by.



Kelly Sampson 50:25

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](http://bradyunited.org) or on social @bradybuzz. Be brave and remember, take action not sides.