

Documentary and Community Discussion
Act4LyonPark.org

On Sunday, April 10, 2016, an audience of 50+ concerned citizens screened the documentary *Making a Killing: Guns, Greed and the NRA*. Panelists Lori Haas of the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence; Patrick Hope, Virginia State Delegate (47th District), Julie Ring Keller of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence; and Adam Price, a law enforcement specialist with extensive ATF experience, viewed the program and took questions from the audience. The panel was moderated by Lyon Park resident Emily Hughes.

The panel acknowledged the challenge that Arlington faces with a new gun dealership in our community. They reiterated that the presence of a gun store in a retail-residential area can have a chilling economic effect as many may choose not to patronize businesses and live in housing that is adjacent to a gun dealership (or any type of less than desirable business). They suggested:

- The free market may inevitably determine that this business is not viable in this community.
- The community should continue to explore avenues with the County Board to provide more transparent information about businesses opening in neighborhoods.
- Vote and work with organizations and individuals who are making an impact at the local, state and national levels.

Key things we learned:

Responsible gun laws work and are worth fighting for

- States with responsible gun control laws have fewer gun-related deaths.
- The key change that panelists thought would make the most difference is instituting universal background checks. Ninety percent of Americans and 74% of NRA members support the idea. [More information about this statistic here.](#)

Virginia's legislative climate is heavily pro-gun

- Virginia is the #3 nationwide provider of crime guns. In 2014, Virginia led the nation in the number of crime guns sold at gun shows.
- It is amazingly easy to purchase a gun without a background check at gun shows in Virginia.
- Virginia is a *Dillon Rule* state which means that local governments lack the authority to restrict or regulate many things unless specifically granted that authority by the legislature.
- Delegate Hope will draft legislation to provide communities with more autonomy about gun dealership locations, but VA's current legislative climate will make it difficult to pass.

Regulating Virginia gun dealers is almost impossible

- ATF has experienced 0% growth since it was formed in 1968. In Virginia, we have about 20 inspectors to inspect 4000 gun shops. Realistically, gun dealers are inspected every 8 to 10 years. Before ATF can inspect a gun dealership, they have to give the owner a week's notice.
- We can ask NOVA Armory to follow [Gun Dealer Code of Conduct](#) - specific steps that contribute to more responsible sales. Better security, etc.

Don't lose heart - we're making progress

- Stemming the tide of gun violence is a marathon, not a sprint; but progress is being made. The array of organizations working at the state and national level is beginning to have an impact.
- Gun owning households are down from 50% to 32%, which means fewer households own more guns. The NRA's market is shrinking - that's one of the reasons the NRA is working so hard to market to kids, women and fear.