

Newspapers/Websites Post List of Gun Owners

Topic A (Good)

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Problem Definition

- A searchable list of gun owners was posted on a blog website for the public to see.
- The information had been legally obtained as the NY gun policy states that registered owners' address is to be accessible to the public.
- Posting a list of gun owners online is ethical because it allows the public the right of safety and reduction of future violence.

Historical/Legal Content

- No laws broken
- Info obtained from a Freedom of Information Law request
- New York:
 - "Pursuant to Penal Law Section 400.00(5), the name and address of any person to whom an application for any license has been granted, shall be a public record."

Stakeholders

- Residents
 - Potential homeowners, renters, etc.
 - Safe neighborhoods
- Law enforcement
 - Safety of gun owners
- Business
 - Gun stores

Competitive Analysis

- Constitutional right to freedom of speech and freedom of the press
- Era of openness
- Convenient for people who care

Economic Factors

- Gawker: more controversial stories, more ad money
- Gun shops: for gun owners that don't want to be on list, will they buy a gun legally in the future?
- Gun industry: sales reached \$12 billion by the end of 2012

Economic Factors



via quantcast.com

Technological Factors

- List already downloadable before incident
- More accessible for people already looking
- Everything is becoming more digitized
- Gather information based on license plate

Recommendations

- Keep an online list with restrictions
 - Not available for the whole public
 - Potential homeowners, renters, etc.
 - Background check
 - Require login to access and time limited access
- Provide gun owners option to made their information private

Pros

- First Recommendation: Limiting access only to residents
 - beneficial to concerned residents
 - beneficial to gun owners
 - ease of harassments and safety
- Second Recommendation: Gun owner opt-out from personal information being released to the public
 - Law enforcement and Mental Health professionals will have access to this information
 - Recertify every five years in order to stay compliant with current gun laws

Pros and Cons

- Pro - Openness and not secrecy
 - Government Accountable
- Con - Allowing everyone/anyone to see