

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

UNITED STATES

v.

Ronald Balhorn

CASE NO: 1:23-cr-00114-ACR-2

**DEFENDANT'S REPLY TO THE GOVERNMENT'S OPPOSITION OF HIS MOTION TO
MODIFY CONDITIONS OF RELEASE**

Defendant Ronald Balhorn, by and through counsel, respectfully submits this Reply Motion to Modify Conditions of Release in response to the Government's opposition. The Defendant seeks the Court's permission to possess firearms based on his constitutional rights and the specific circumstances of his case.

ARGUMENT

The Defendant asserts that his request to possess firearms is grounded in his fundamental right to bear arms, as protected by the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution. The Supreme Court has consistently recognized that the Second Amendment guarantees an individual's right to possess firearms for lawful purposes. *District of Columbia v. Heller*, 554 U.S. 570 (2008).

Contrary to the Government's argument, the Defendant has provided a credible justification for the modification he seeks. The Defendant intends to engage in the purely recreational activity of hunting, which has long been recognized as a lawful and legitimate use of firearms. The Defendant's desire to exercise his constitutional right to bear arms for this lawful purpose constitutes a compelling justification for the requested modification.

Furthermore, the Government refers to exceptions where the Court has allowed for those convicted of similar misdemeanors to possess firearms. In *Hand*, the Court allowed for modification to be able to use a .410 shotgun to defend his property against wildlife. *United States v. Hand*, 22-CR-111 (JEB), MINUTE ENTRY (May 18, 2022). Here, the facts are very similar, except that Mr. Balhorn is seeking to possess firearms to hunt wildlife for recreational purposes and not defense of property.

The Defendant respectfully submits that his motion seeks a narrow and reasonable modification to the conditions of his release. The proposed modification would allow him to possess firearms solely for the purpose of hunting, subject to any reasonable restrictions deemed appropriate by this Honorable Court. The Defendant recognizes the importance of public safety and is willing to comply with any reasonable conditions imposed by the Court to ensure the responsible and lawful use of firearms.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons stated above, the Defendant respectfully requests that this Honorable Court grant his motion to modify the conditions of his release to permit the possession of firearms for the lawful purpose of hunting. The Defendant recognizes his commitment to comply with any additional reasonable conditions imposed by the Court to ensure public safety.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Mark Rollins

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