

NJ Gun Arrest

Usually the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office is a well versed group of people having worked with them numerious times. Looks like this case isn't one of their best. Want to bet that most thought the smokeless powder would explode and not just burn. I would say your backyard BBQ propane tank is more of a hazard.....

Gun collector indicted for making garage an armory

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BY ANA M. ALAYA Star-Ledger Staff

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An 83-year-old convicted felon who kept a massive cache of weapons and gunpowder in his Ridgefield home has been indicted, accused of recklessly creating a risk of injury.

A Bergen County grand jury also has accused Sherwin Raymond, a former physician and known gun enthusiast, of recklessly handling or storing hazardous materials in the garage of his Abbott Avenue home, and possessing a sawed-off shotgun.

The indictment was released yesterday, nearly a year after authorities stumbled upon nearly 500 guns, 500 pounds of gunpowder and 100,000 rounds of ammunition in Raymond's home after police officers escorted his disoriented wife to the house.

"This is definitely a unique case," Bergen County Prosecutor John Molinelli said. "He had a lot of gunpowder. In the quantities he had, it was a dangerous condition. The bomb squad had to come in to dispose of the gunpowder."

Raymond has twice spent time in prison: in the early 1970s for performing illegal abortions, and later that decade for selling silencer-equipped submachine guns.

In many cases, convicted felons in New Jersey are not permitted to own guns. The state's statute does not include the crimes for which Raymond was convicted, Bergen County Assistant

Prosecutor Deepa Jacobs said.

Raymond did not have a permit for any of the guns, though a permit is not required merely to have guns in a house, Jacobs said. It was the way Raymond was storing the weapons and ammunition -- some were found near a propane gas tank -- that concerned authorities.

Of Raymond's cache, the only weapons or ammunition banned under New Jersey law are the sawed-off shotgun and 61 large-capacity ammunition magazines, according to the indictment.

Jacobs said prosecutors consulted with gun experts. "A lot of the guns we initially thought were prohibited turned out not to be," she said.

The seized guns are being tested to determine if any was used in a crime, although none had been linked to a crime as of yesterday, Molinelli said.

Raymond faces more than 30 years in jail if he is convicted on all five counts against him, though his sentence likely would be far more lenient, Molinelli said.

Raymond could not be reached for comment yesterday.