



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## *Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control*

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**August 4, 2003**

**Mr. Phillip VanCleave  
President  
Virginia Citizens Defense League, Inc.  
Post Office Box 513  
Newington, Virginia 22122**

**Dear Mr. VanCleave:**

**This is in response to your inquiry concerning the propriety of carrying weapons into an establishment licensed to sell alcoholic beverages.**

**Generally speaking, it is unlawful to carry a concealed handgun onto the premises of any establishment licensed to sell or serve alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption, even if the person has a valid concealed weapons permit.**

**However, unless prohibited by the owner of the establishment, there is no prohibition to the open carrying of a handgun onto the premises of a licensed establishment.**

**I hope this information is helpful.**

**Sincerely,**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Christopher Curtis".

**S. Christopher Curtis  
Director  
Law Enforcement Bureau**

**SCC:feh**

**C: W. Curtis Coleburn, III**