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A Short History of Chicago's Battles With The Courts Over Gun Control



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A federal judge Monday ruled against Chicago's ordinance banning gun sales within the city, and it's far from the first time the courts have challenged Chicago's tough gun control measures. Here's a timeline of Chicago's duel with the justice system over who can buy and sell guns, starting with the event that triggered it all.

1963: President John F. Kennedy is shot and assassinated.

1967: Mayor Richard J. Daley urges the state to pass a law requiring the registration of all guns, but the Illinois General Assembly approves a Republican compromise, which instead of registering every gun, required the state to register gun owners with the Firearm Owners Identification Card.

1968: Daley's City Council orders the registration of all firearms in Chicago.

1972: Mayor Daley takes a stand against gun rights activists before U.S. House subcommittees on gun violence. He then creates a special court to process gun crimes. Murder rates in the city are increasing.

1973: Various citizen groups like the Committee for Handgun Control form to lobby city politicians to pass tough gun control laws.

1981: Morton Grove, a suburb of Chicago with 25,000 residents at the time, becomes the first municipality in the U.S. to ban the sale, transportation and ownership of handguns. The ordinance is immediately challenged in court, and U.S. District Judge Bernard Decker rules the ordinance is valid.

1982: Mayor Jane Byrne and the city council begin hearings on an ordinance proposed by alderman Ed Burke that would ban the sale and registration of hand guns in Chicago. The ordinance passes. Chicago

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