## SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE U	NITED	STATES
NEW YORK STATE RIFLE & PISTOL	)	
ASSOCIATION, INC., ET AL.,	)	
Petitioners,	)	
v.	) No.	18-280
CITY OF NEW YORK, NEW YORK, ET AL.,	)	
Respondents.	)	
	_	

Pages: 1 through 72

Place: Washington, D.C.

Date: December 2, 2019

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5	Petitioners, )
6	v. ) No. 18-280
7	CITY OF NEW YORK, NEW YORK, ET AL., )
8	Respondents. )
9	
10	Washington, D.C.
11	Monday, December 2, 2019
12	
13	The above-entitled matter came on for
14	oral argument before the Supreme Court of the
15	United States at 10:05 a.m.
16	
17	APPEARANCES:
18	PAUL D. CLEMENT, ESQ., Washington, D.C.;
19	on behalf of the Petitioners.
20	JEFFREY B. WALL, Principal Deputy Solicitor
21	General, Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.;
22	for the United States, as amicus curiae,
23	supporting the Petitioners.
24	RICHARD P. DEARING, ESQ., New York, New York;
25	on behalf of the Respondents.

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1	PROCEEDINGS
2	(10:05 a.m.)
3	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: We'll hear
4	argument first this morning in Case 18-280, the
5	New York State Rifle and Pistol Association
6	versus the City of New York.
7	Mr. Clement.
8	ORAL ARGUMENT OF PAUL D. CLEMENT
9	ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONERS
10	MR. CLEMENT: Mr. Chief Justice, and
11	may it please the Court:
12	Text, history, and tradition all make
13	clear that New York City's restrictive premises
14	license and accompanying transport ban are
15	unconstitutional. The city's restriction on
16	transporting firearms to places where they may
17	be lawfully possessed and its insistence in its
18	revised regulations that any such transport be
19	continuous and uninterrupted are premised on a
20	view of the Second Amendment as a home-bound
21	right, with any ability to venture beyond the
22	curtilage with a firearm, even locked and
23	unloaded, a matter of government grace.
24	That view is inconsistent with text,
25	history, tradition, and this Court's cases. The

Τ.	text of the Second Amendment protects rights to
2	keep and bear arms. That latter right makes
3	clear that the Second Amendment protects rights
4	that are not strictly limited to the premises.
5	And there is no historical analogue
6	for the city's prohibition on transporting
7	firearms to places where they may be lawfully
8	used. To the contrary, the second Congress
9	required the militia to take their own firearms
10	from their homes to the training ground.
11	And the regulations on limiting where
12	firearms may be discharged or where training may
13	occur that the city invokes both underscore that
14	the general rule was that firearms could be
15	safely transported between and among places
16	where they could be used and discharged. This
17	Court recognized as much in Heller, both by
18	recognizing the long history of handgun
19	possession outside the home and by recognizing
20	the government's interest in limiting possession
21	in sensitive places, not every place outside the
22	home.
23	The city, of course, has struggled
24	mightily ever since this Court granted
25	certiorari to make this case go away, but those

- 1 efforts are unavailing and only underscore their
- 2 continuing view that the transport of firearms
- 3 is a matter of municipal grace rather than
- 4 constitutional right. The standard for
- 5 mootness --
- 6 JUSTICE GINSBURG: But, Mr. -- Mr.
- 7 Clement, the city has now been blocked by a
- 8 state law, and the state has not been party to
- 9 these proceedings. The state says: City, thou
- 10 shalt not enforce the regulations. So what's
- 11 left of this case? The Petitioners have gotten
- 12 all the relief that they sought. They can carry
- 13 a gun to a second home. They can carry it to a
- 14 fire -- to a practice range out of state.
- MR. CLEMENT: So, Justice Ginsburg,
- the Petitioners have not gotten all the relief
- to which they've been entitled if they prevailed
- in this litigation before the city and the state
- 19 changed their law.
- 20 I think the best way to illustrate
- 21 that is if we prevailed in the district court
- 22 before these changes in the law, we would have
- 23 been entitled, of course, to a declaration that
- the transport ban is and always was
- 25 unconstitutional.

1	But we would also be entitled to an
2	injunction that did three things: one, prohibit
3	future enforcement of the transport ban; second,
4	prevent the city from taking past conduct in
5	violation of the ban into account in licensing
6	decisions; and, third, an injunction that
7	safeguard our right to transport meaningfully
8	such that it wouldn't be limited to continuous
9	and uninterrupted transport.
LO	JUSTICE GINSBURG: But even as
L1	MR. CLEMENT: Now the state law
L2	JUSTICE GINSBURG: as far as what
L3	you said about enforcing past violations, no
L4	plaintiff has alleged that they ever violated
L5	the regulations when they were in effect?
L6	MR. CLEMENT: That's actually not
L7	correct, Justice Ginsburg. If you look at
L8	paragraphs 12, 15, and 17 of the complaint, at
L9	pages 28 and 29 of the Joint Appendix, all three
20	of the individual Petitioners alleged that they
21	regularly went outside the City of New York to
22	firing ranges in outside Westchester,
23	basically, and in New Jersey.
24	So all three of my clients are on the
25	record as saying that in the nast they engage

- 1 in conduct that is inconsistent with the
- 2 transport ban. And if you understand the ways
- 3 that the City of --
- 4 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Mr. Clement --
- 5 MR. CLEMENT: -- New York licenses
- 6 handguns or --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- Mr. Clement, I
- 8 believe that the city has foresworn any future
- 9 prosecution for past violations.
- 10 MR. CLEMENT: Well --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I thought that
- 12 that's the representation they made to this
- 13 Court.
- MR. CLEMENT: Well, Justice Sotomayor,
- in their latest letter, they were very careful
- about what they represented. They represented
- 17 that they wouldn't try to prosecute somebody
- 18 from past conduct if that past conduct didn't
- 19 violate the current regulations.
- 20 So if the past conduct happened to
- 21 involve a stop for coffee and not continuous and
- 22 uninterrupted transport --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: But that has to do
- 24 with the current law, and that hasn't been
- 25 decided by the court below. That -- that's

- 1 something -- that's a complaint about the limits
- of the current law, not the limits of the old
- 3 law. You're asking us to mix apples and oranges
- 4 now.
- 5 MR. CLEMENT: Well, I don't think so,
- 6 Justice Sotomayor. I think what I'm asking you
- 7 to do is exactly what this Court did in the Knox
- 8 case.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: No, Mr. Clement,
- 10 what you're asking us to do is to take a case in
- 11 which the other side has thrown in the towel and
- 12 completely given you every single thing you
- demanded in your complaint for relief, and
- 14 you're asking us to opine on a law that's not on
- the books anymore, and one that's not on the
- books, not because of something necessarily the
- 17 city did but because the state, a party who's
- 18 not a party to this litigation, has changed the
- 19 law and prohibited them from doing.
- 20 So this is, I think, something quite
- 21 different. You're asking us to opine on an old
- law, not the new law.
- MR. CLEMENT: Well --
- 24 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: And the new law
- 25 hasn't been reviewed below yet.

1	MR. CLEMENT: So, again, Justice
2	Sotomayor, I really think what we're asking you
3	to do is exactly analogous to what was before
4	this Court in Knox. In Knox, the thrust of the
5	underlying complaint was that the supplemental
6	fee assessment that the union imposed on the
7	members was unconstitutional. That's what the
8	complaint framed. And then
9	JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: But you've got
10	what you want now. In terms of the contiguous,
11	we don't even know whether the city is taking
12	the the position that you can't stop for a
13	cup of coffee. Presumably, if you leave your
14	gun in the car, I'm not sure how they would know
15	you were traveling with a gun, but put that
16	aside.
17	MR. CLEMENT: Well, so before I put it
18	aside, let me just say I think we do know the
19	answer to that because, in subsection 7 of the
20	new regulations that they promulgated,
21	specifically to try to moot this case, they made
22	clear that the kind of transport they were
23	allowing, at least within the City of New York,
24	had to be continuous and uninterrupted. I don't
25	know what "continuous and uninterrupted" means

- 1 if it doesn't -- if it -- if it means that you
- 2 can make stops for coffee.
- 3 And I assure you, I think the right
- 4 way to think about this for Article III purposes
- 5 is, if we had been successful in the lower court
- 6 and proposed an injunction, I guarantee the
- 7 words "continuous and uninterrupted" would not
- 8 be in our proposed injunction.
- 9 If the city had offered their proposed
- injunction and included that limitation, we
- 11 would have said we don't accept that. We think
- that's inconsistent with the right that we just
- 13 prevailed on. And that dispute --
- JUSTICE KAGAN: Did you --
- MR. CLEMENT: -- would be a continuing
- 16 dispute that would render the case not moot,
- just like in Knox, there was a continuing
- dispute about the sufficiency of the refund
- 19 notice that the union offered, post certiorari,
- in its effort to moot the case. The dispute
- 21 that would still lie between the parties about
- the sufficiency of the refund notice wasn't the
- 23 exact same dispute that initiated the
- 24 litigation, but the case was still a live
- 25 controversy for Article III purposes, and this

- 1 Court decided both the question presented and
- 2 then also addressed the refund notice.
- Now this Court could address the
- 4 question presented here and leave the question
- of "continuous and uninterrupted" for the lower
- 6 court if it wanted to, but there's no basis for
- 7 not answering the question presented.
- 8 So if I could turn to that --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I'm sorry, that --
- 10 that's the oddest decision I've heard. Answer
- an old law that's no longer in effect and then
- 12 reserve consideration of the new law's
- interpretation for the lower courts? I don't
- 14 know how that doesn't constitute mootness on the
- issue that's before us. If --
- MR. CLEMENT: Well, with respect,
- 17 Justice Sotomayor --
- 18 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- if -- if
- 19 they've agreed and you agree that everything but
- the "continuous and uninterrupted" has been
- 21 resolved and that you've gotten everything you
- 22 wanted as demanded in your complaint, you can
- 23 travel to a second home, you can travel to any
- lawful firing range, that's all your original
- 25 complaint demanded, if you got all of that, that

- 1 is the issue that was before us.
- 2 MR. CLEMENT: Well --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: And your question
- 4 is whether -- and you've agreed we should leave
- 5 that to the courts below, what contiguous --
- 6 "continuous and uninterrupted" is. That happens
- 7 to go to the new law, not the old one.
- 8 MR. CLEMENT: With respect, Justice
- 9 Sotomayor, we don't think we've gotten
- 10 everything that we could have gotten if we
- 11 prevailed in the district court, including
- 12 continuous and uninterrupted.
- But also we would like, with all due
- 14 respect, given our five years of history in this
- 15 litigation with my friends on the other side,
- we'd like something more than their
- 17 representations to protect us against the use in
- 18 the future of past conduct --
- 19 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I -- I have
- 20 one --
- 21 MR. CLEMENT: -- in licensing
- 22 decisions.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- I have one
- 24 question. The SG tried to give you a -- a
- 25 lifeline by saying you could get damages. But I

- 1 read your representations to the Court and you
- 2 said we could get damages. I don't see a
- 3 request for relief, either damages or nominal,
- 4 in your complaint. And you don't say we want
- 5 damages in your submissions to us. Did you ask
- 6 for damages, nominal or --
- 7 MR. CLEMENT: We -- we asked for all
- 8 other appropriate relief in our complaint. We
- 9 did not make a specific request for damages
- 10 below. I'm happy to affirm that we'd like
- 11 damages, but I also think that although we --
- 12 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: You'd have to ask
- for permission to amend your complaint to seek
- that, don't you?
- MR. CLEMENT: We would have to do
- 16 that, but with all due respect to the Solicitor
- General, we were happy that they recognized the
- 18 case wasn't moot, but we didn't really feel like
- 19 we needed a damages lifeline because we think we
- 20 had multiple strong arguments based on this
- 21 Court's precedents, including the Knox case,
- that said that wholly apart from the damages
- issue this dispute isn't moot.
- 24 So if I could turn to --
- JUSTICE GINSBURG: Mr. Clement, just

- one more on the damages. As far as I know, this
- 2 Court has never used a late, meaning in this
- 3 Court and not below, request for damages to save
- 4 a case from mootness. I don't know of any such
- 5 case.
- 6 MR. CLEMENT: I'm not aware of one
- 7 either, Justice Ginsburg. Perhaps my -- my
- 8 colleague from the SG's office will have one
- 9 since it was his suggestion, but we think we
- 10 have plenty of cases from this Court that are
- 11 analogous to this situation.
- 12 And, indeed, with respect, I don't
- think the practice of getting the recognition
- 14 after certiorari is granted that a certiorari
- 15 grant may not signal anything good for the
- 16 defendant. I mean, that's quite common practice
- that they then come up with an idea to moot the
- 18 case.
- Just if you think of a couple of
- 20 recent cases, not just Knox, but Trinity
- 21 Lutheran and Parents Involved, all involved
- late-breaking efforts, often by government
- 23 entities, to make the case go away.
- In each case, this Court said no,
- 25 that's too little, too late. And if this Court

- 1 starts accepting these kind of post-certiorari
- 2 maneuvers, it's going to be very hard for the
- 3 Court to continue --
- 4 JUSTICE BREYER: I probably have a --
- 5 MR. CLEMENT: -- to have --
- 6 JUSTICE BREYER: I mean, I don't think
- 7 it's bad when people who have an argument settle
- 8 their argument and, thus, there no longer is
- one, so I wonder if, should I ask them this
- 10 question? You say this case is still alive
- 11 because the City of New York might prosecute one
- of your clients because they stopped for coffee
- on the way to a firing range.
- I think I'm going to ask them that.
- 15 And I have a suspicion they will say no, we
- 16 aren't going to prosecute that particular
- individual. So then what should I do? Should
- 18 I -- we have a dispute. You think they will.
- 19 They think they won't.
- 20 MR. CLEMENT: Right. So that suggests
- 21 to me we that we have the kind of live
- 22 controversy --
- JUSTICE BREYER: Here's your time. I
- 24 --
- MR. CLEMENT: -- and if the standard

- 1 for mootness is whether it is possible to
- 2 provide effectual relief, I guarantee an
- 3 injunction backed by contempt that enforces
- 4 those promises is going to give my clients more
- 5 effectual relief.
- And do keep in mind what makes this
- 7 case quite different from a lot of others is
- 8 this is a discretionary licensing process where
- 9 the city makes judgments about good moral
- 10 character. There are 79 officials in the
- 11 licensing department of the City of New York.
- Where are they going to look for guidance?
- 13 They could, I think, look for guidance
- to a Court-ordered injunction. I'm not sure
- they're going to pull the transcript from this
- 16 argument, let alone a letter from the city to
- 17 the Solicitor General's Office for this. So we
- think we're entitled to that kind of meaningful,
- 19 effectual relief.
- We think, on the merits, this case is
- 21 actually quite straightforward because there is
- 22 no historical analogue for this kind of
- 23 transportation restriction. As I suggested, if
- you look at the second Militia Act, passed by
- 25 the second Congress, they not only understood

- 1 that you could transport your firearms from your
- 2 home to a place where they could be lawfully
- discharged, but they required it of the members
- 4 of the militia.
- 5 If you look at the history and
- 6 traditions of this country, there are very few
- 7 laws that tried to do anything like this, and
- 8 the few that tried to do this were invalidated
- 9 by the courts.
- 10 JUSTICE KAGAN: Mr. Clement, as I
- 11 understand New York's scheme, New York has two
- 12 kinds of licences. It has a premises license
- and it has a carry license. And you're
- 14 attacking the premises license scheme on the
- 15 ground that it doesn't allow you to carry.
- So why don't you just attack the carry
- 17 license scheme? If you want to carry, why
- 18 didn't your clients get a carry license?
- 19 MR. CLEMENT: Well, Justice Kagan, I
- 20 think what my clients wanted in this lawsuit,
- 21 and there are plenty of other lawsuits out there
- 22 challenging carry restrictions, but they wanted
- the right to transport, not the right to carry.
- 24 Now I --
- JUSTICE KAGAN: Well, transporting is

- 1 a kind of carrying. You take your gun and it
- 2 goes with you someplace. That's a kind of
- 3 carrying.
- 4 MR. CLEMENT: I -- I will agree with
- 5 that. I think it's also a kind of bearing,
- 6 which is why I think this is such a
- 7 straightforward case.
- 8 I think it's protected --
- 9 JUSTICE KAGAN: All I'm asking is --
- is -- is there's a premises scheme and a
- 11 carrying scheme, and your clients want to carry,
- 12 which suggests that you should have brought a
- 13 challenge to the carrying scheme if you thought
- 14 that that was deficient.
- MR. CLEMENT: Again, with respect,
- 16 Justice Kagan, my clients for years had -- at
- 17 least two of the three, had what the city for a
- while called a target license, and it didn't
- 19 give them a full right to carry, but it did give
- 20 them the right to transport their firearms to
- 21 New Jersey and other places, probably would have
- 22 allowed a second home, though I'm not sure that
- issue is squarely presented.
- 24 My clients did not insist on getting a
- 25 carry license either under the -- before this

- 1 lawsuit was filed or in this lawsuit. What they
- 2 wanted is to restore rights to transport their
- 3 firearms between and among places where they
- 4 could be lawfully used.
- 5 That's different from a license that
- 6 says, I get to have this firearm with me at all
- 7 times, loaded, ready to go. What they wanted is
- 8 to restore their right to transport firearms,
- 9 locked and unloaded, between places where they
- 10 could be lawfully used. That's what they asked
- 11 for. That is what there is no historical
- 12 analogue for.
- 13 And if I could emphasize, I think it
- 14 would send a very important signal to the lower
- 15 courts to say that when a regulation like this
- is inconsistent with text and has no analogue in
- 17 history or tradition, it is unconstitutional,
- 18 full stop. The way the lower courts have
- interpreted Heller is like text, history, and
- 20 tradition is a one-way ratchet.
- 21 If text, history, and tradition sort
- of allow this practice, then they'll uphold the
- law. But if text, history, and tradition are to
- 24 the contrary, then the courts proceed to a
- 25 watered-down form of scrutiny that's heightened

- 1 in name only.
- 2 And I think this Court should reaffirm
- 3 that text, history, and tradition essentially is
- 4 the test and can be administered in a way that
- 5 provides real protection for --
- JUSTICE BREYER: I want to go back --
- 7 MR. CLEMENT: -- Second Amendment
- 8 rights.
- 9 JUSTICE BREYER: -- for one second to
- 10 the question presented. Does New York City's
- 11 ban on transporting a licensed, locked, and
- 12 unloaded handgun to a home or shooting range
- 13 outside the city limits consistent with the
- 14 Second Amendment?
- In New York, now you're going to hear
- in one minute, there is no New York City ban on
- transporting a licensed, locked, and unloaded
- 18 handgun to a home or other place outside. I
- 19 think you'll hear that.
- Now what will your, very brief,
- 21 response? There's a question presented, they
- 22 say there is no ban. And you say?
- 23 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: You can finish
- 24 the question.
- 25 JUSTICE BREYER: That was the finish.

Т	(Laugitter.)
2	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Briefly.
3	Thank you.
4	MR. CLEMENT: Mr. Chief Justice, thank
5	you.
6	So my answer in a in a nutshell is
7	Knox. My slightly longer answer is every time
8	this Court confronts a post-certiorari maneuver
9	to try to moot a case, it almost by definition
10	will try to take away from you the question
11	presented. That's what happened in Knox.
12	The question presented concerned the
13	constitutionality of the special assessment. It
14	didn't concern the adequacy of the refund
15	notice, but yet this Court decided both.
16	Thank you, Your Honor.
17	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
18	counsel.
19	Mr. Wall.
20	ORAL ARGUMENT OF JEFFREY B. WALL
21	FOR THE UNITED STATES, AS AMICUS CURIAE,
22	SUPPORTING THE PETITIONERS
23	MR. WALL: Mr. Chief Justice, and may
24	it please the Court:
25	One point on the merits and one on

- 1 mootness. On the merits, text, history, and
- 2 tradition all condemn New York's transport ban.
- 3 Such bans have been rare and commonly struck
- 4 down precisely because the right to keep arms
- 5 and keep and bear arms must entail and has
- 6 always entailed the ability of a law-abiding
- 7 citizen to carry a firearm unloaded and locked
- 8 from one lawful place to another.
- 9 On mootness, Petitioners pointed below
- 10 to economic harms from the violation of their
- 11 constitutional rights. If they prevail here,
- 12 the district court could award them damages,
- 13 just like any other 1983 plaintiff.
- JUSTICE GINSBURG: But they never
- 15 asked for it.
- 16 MR. WALL: That's true, Justice
- Ginsburg, but there's a specific federal rule on
- this, Federal Rule 54(c), which says the prayer
- of relief binds on a default judgment, but it
- doesn't bind when you've litigated on the
- 21 merits. And so the question for Article III
- 22 purpose -- and I'll grant that there are
- 23 questions about -- prudential questions about
- 24 whether, under the rules, a court should allow
- 25 them to inject a theory, and it would have to

- 1 weigh that against the city's tardiness in
- 2 changing its theory of the case as well.
- But, for Article III purposes, the
- 4 question under Mission Products and Knox is, is
- 5 it impossible for a court to grant effectual
- 6 relief? It is not. It is possible for a court
- 7 to award them the damages they have sustained --
- 8 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Has --
- 9 MR. WALL: -- as a result of the city's
- 10 conduct.
- 11 JUSTICE GINSBURG: -- has it -- has
- 12 the SG, the Solicitor General, ever asked this
- 13 Court to allow such a late interjection of a
- damages question to save a case from mootness?
- 15 Mr. Clement said he was not aware of any such
- 16 case. Are you?
- 17 MR. WALL: So I don't know of any case
- in which it's directly come up or we've weighed
- in on it. We, obviously, participated on the
- 20 merits before the city's suggestion of mootness,
- 21 and we felt compelled to explain to the Court
- 22 our view on mootness.
- JUSTICE KAGAN: Didn't it come up in
- 24 Alejandrino? Is that the -- the name of the
- 25 case? And it was decided the other way, that

- 1 the Court said no, we're not going to allow that
- 2 to happen.
- 3 MR. WALL: So I think -- but that's
- 4 in -- first, it's in 1926, so it predates the
- 5 federal rule. So it predates 54(c), which makes
- 6 clear that the prayer for relief no longer
- 7 binds.
- 8 I also think the facts are somewhat
- 9 distinguishable from here, where they've got
- 10 evidence in the record at the summary judgment
- 11 stage of their economic harms. Now, to be sure,
- they're not focused on damages. What they
- wanted was to engage in the conduct. They
- wanted an injunction and they fought for years
- 15 over it.
- 16 JUSTICE KAGAN: I mean, not focused on
- damages is an understatement. They -- they
- 18 practically won't take damages. They've had
- 19 every opportunity to say that they want damages,
- including today, and for whatever reason,
- 21 Mr. Clement has, you know, basically said this
- 22 case is not about damages. That's not why we
- think it's not moot and that's not what we want.
- 24 MR. WALL: So I -- I heard Mr. Clement
- 25 say: I'm happy to affirm that my clients want

- damages, but we don't think we need that
- 2 lifeline from the solicitor general. We think
- 3 our other theories are good.
- We, obviously, disagree on some of
- 5 those other theories, but I think the -- the
- 6 question under Knox and Mission Products is, is
- 7 it impossible for a court to award damages?
- 8 Here, there is evidence in the record
- 9 of economic harm. If they get a declaration on
- 10 the merits that they're right as a matter of the
- 11 Second Amendment --
- 12 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: All right. Would
- 13 you remind --
- MR. WALL: -- there is no barrier to
- 15 their receiving an award of damages from a
- 16 court.
- 17 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Would you remind
- 18 me what -- where in the complaint they set forth
- 19 damages?
- 20 MR. WALL: Sure. So I think the best
- 21 examples are at pages 32, 33, 35, 36 of the
- Joint Appendix and then again at 52 through 54,
- 23 56, 57, and 59 to 61.
- JUSTICE KAGAN: But --
- MR. WALL: Those are both the

- 1 pleadings and the summary judgment affidavits,
- 2 and they rely on two kinds of harm. One is the
- 3 competitions they were not allowed to attend
- 4 with the firearms, and the other is the costs of
- 5 dues and membership fees to the in-city ranges,
- 6 which I think implicitly they're suggesting are
- 7 higher than the out-of-city ranges.
- JUSTICE KAGAN: Mr. Wall, I mean, they
- 9 filed a complaint. They filed a motion for
- 10 summary judgment. They briefed this case before
- 11 the Second Circuit. They filed a cert petition.
- 12 Then, in response to the suggestion of mootness,
- 13 they filed another brief there.
- 14 And in none of those places did they
- 15 ask for damages. Damages has been injected into
- this case because of the solicitor general in a,
- 17 you know, very late-breaking three-page letter.
- 18 MR. WALL: Look, Justice Kagan, I'll
- 19 certainly grant that there's a lot of post-grant
- 20 maneuvering on both sides. The city has
- 21 withdrawn its law, and the Petitioners have come
- up with theories for why the case is not moot.
- 23 As a matter of Article III, our view is that
- damages could change hands and hence it's not
- 25 moot.

1 I suppose you could also rest it on 2 future consequences and say that the city's representations have come too late. It has an 3 express scheme that allows you to consider these 4 5 things. 6 JUSTICE KAGAN: Well, I -- I thought that in your brief, in your letter brief, you 7 8 specifically rejected every other theory of --9 of why this case was live. 10 MR. WALL: We do think that the Court 11 credits those kinds of assertions by 12 governmental litigants. It did in DeFunis. The facts here are a little different. You have a 13 14 scheme that expressly allows you to consider the 15 conduct. You don't have any acknowledgment from the city that its former conduct was 16 unconstitutional, and you have a representation 17 18 that comes, as Mr. Clement said in his letter, 19 at the 11th and a half hour. 20 On those facts, could you say we're 21 not going to take a look at the city's representation? You could. That is not our 22 23 theory. Our theory is that money could change 24 hands here and they'd be entitled to that money

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1
                JUSTICE KAGAN: And what do you think
 2
               MR. WALL: -- if they prevailed on the
 3
 4
     merits.
 5
                JUSTICE KAGAN: -- of Mr. Clement's
 6
      theory? I take it that you rejected Mr.
7
     Clement's theory about this continuous travel
8
     and stopping for coffee?
               MR. WALL: I -- I think it's a close
9
10
             In our view, that's a new controversy
      that arises from the new law, not the old
11
12
     controversy in the old law, but I -- I think
      it's a -- I think it's a hard question, and I
13
14
     understand his point that there would have been
15
      fighting over the terms of the injunction in the
      -- in the district court or at least potentially
16
     there could have been.
17
18
                If I could turn to the -- to the
19
     merits for just a minute --
20
                JUSTICE GORSUCH: Well, why -- why
21
      isn't that good enough? If under the prior law
22
      the plaintiffs would have sought relief that
23
     would allow them to take their firearms locked
```

safely to a range and stop along the way for a

cup of coffee or a bathroom break and that that

24

- 1 is still being denied under the -- if that's a
- 2 proper reading, we'll ask New York about that,
- 3 I'm sure, but if that's still a proper reading
- 4 of their existing regulations, why isn't there a
- 5 live controversy remaining?
- 6 MR. WALL: I think --
- 7 JUSTICE GORSUCH: There would seem to
- 8 be a delta of relief that's been denied them.
- 9 MR. WALL: Oh, I do think there is a
- 10 -- a live controversy potentially now about the
- 11 meaning of this "continuous and uninterrupted"
- 12 requirement. I just think that arises from the
- 13 new law. And the premise, I think --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Well, why doesn't --
- MR. WALL: -- we have doubts since --
- 16 JUSTICE GORSUCH: -- it arise -- why
- 17 isn't the dispute still alive from the old law
- if that's a form of relief they would have
- 19 sought and is still, despite the new law, being
- 20 denied them? Isn't that a classic definition of
- 21 relief that was sought but now still -- despite
- 22 herculean, late-breaking efforts to moot the
- 23 case, still alive?
- 24 MR. WALL: I -- if the Court wanted to
- 25 say that, I don't think it would harm the United

- 1 States' interests. So --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: You're not aware of
- any precedent that would foreclose that and, in
- 4 fact, that's pretty much what Knox did, isn't
- 5 it?
- 6 MR. WALL: Well, except that Knox
- 7 wasn't a governmental litigant, so I think
- 8 presumption of voluntary cessation worked a
- 9 little differently, but to -- Justice Gorsuch,
- 10 just to go to the question, I think in the
- 11 district court, the fight was about whether they
- 12 could do the thing at all.
- 13 And now we have a -- what strikes us
- 14 as a different fight about the manner in which
- 15 they can go. And the legal restriction is
- 16 different. The legal restriction now is tied to
- the new law. But, no, I'm not aware of anything
- 18 --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Sure, they granted
- 20 --
- 21 MR. WALL: -- that would keep the
- 22 Court from going there.
- 23 JUSTICE GORSUCH: -- new relief. They
- 24 have granted but not total relief that the
- 25 plaintiffs sought. You'd agree with that?

1 MR. WALL: I -- I would agree with that. I think there is still a controversy 2 about the manner in which they can go. 3 seems somewhat different to us from the 4 5 controversy that was litigated below and that this Court agreed to hear, but I don't think 6 there's any case that would keep the Court from 7 8 going down that road. If I could turn to the merits for just 9 10 a minute, I think all that the Petitioners are asking for, and it's a fairly modest ask, is for 11 12 the Court to reiterate what it said in Heller, that the lower courts have been correct in 13 14 starting with text and history and tradition, 15 but they have created, as Mr. Clement said, this 16 sort of asymmetry where they find that history 17 and tradition can give a thumbs up to a law but 18 not a thumbs down. 19 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I'm sorry, can I 20 go back to that question? In what other area, 21 constitutional area, the First Amendment in particular, have we decided any case based 22 23 solely on text, history, and tradition? 24 This seems sort of a made-up new 25 standard. And I thought Heller was very careful

- 1 to say we don't do that. We treat it like any
- 2 other constitutional provision. And if I
- 3 analogize this to the First Amendment, which is
- 4 what Heller suggested we should do, this seems
- 5 to me to be a time, place, and manner
- 6 restriction. It may not pass any of the
- 7 standards of scrutiny, but, if you're looking at
- 8 a First Amendment right to speak, it's never
- 9 absolute. There are some words that are not
- 10 protected. We're going to have a different
- 11 fight about that at some point. Or there are
- some weapons that are not protected, just like
- there might be some words that are not
- 14 protected.
- We know under the First Amendment that
- there are time, place, and manner restrictions
- that a government can impose on the basis of
- 18 safety and other things. On the basis of
- 19 safety, you can't have a demonstration at will.
- 20 You need a permit, and you have to have certain
- 21 equipment and certain protections and certain
- things.
- So, if I treat it in that way, we
- 24 might have a fight about whether text, history,
- 25 and tradition permits a time, manner, and place

1	restriction of this type, but I don't know why
2	that's a free-standing test.
3	MR. WALL: So two points, Justice
4	Sotomayor. The first is I understand manner
5	restrictions. I understand the requirement that
6	you carry the gun unloaded or that you do it in
7	a locked container. But a ban is not a time,
8	place, or manner restriction. And in
9	determining which category it falls into and
10	what's permissible, Heller said you start with
11	text, history, and tradition.
12	And the Court commonly does that, even
13	under the First Amendment with respect to
14	categories, the Fourth Amendment for a search,
15	the Seventh Amendment for the jury trial right.
16	Heller just says you start here. And starting
17	here, I think this is a straightforward case.
18	There is no historical analogue and a contrary
19	tradition.
20	Thank you.
21	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
22	counsel.
23	Mr. Dearing.
24	

Τ	ORAL ARGUMENT OF RICHARD P. DEARING
2	ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENTS
3	MR. DEARING: Mr. Chief Justice, and
4	may it please the Court:
5	Contrary to how they're presenting it
6	now, Petitioners framed this case narrowly.
7	They argue that a premises license, a premises
8	license specifically, must allow certain limited
9	transport of the licensed handgun to effectuate
LO	its possession and use in the premises, and they
L1	sought only injunctive and declaratory relief to
L2	require the city to allow that limited
L3	transport.
L <b>4</b>	And that narrow framing, in turn, has
L5	two implications now. First, the case is moot
L6	because changes in state and city law have given
L7	Petitioners everything they asked for and,
L8	indeed, more than that.
L9	Petitioners suggest these changes
20	should be viewed skeptically, but it's a good
21	thing and not a cause for concern when the
22	government responds to litigation by resolving
23	matters through the democratic process.
24	The Solicitor General agrees that all
25	the objections actually raised by Petitioners to

- 1 mootness are unfounded but suggests that the
- 2 Court could proceed to the merits of the
- 3 constitutional questions anyway because
- 4 Petitioners might be -- in the future be able to
- 5 add a new claim for damages that they have never
- 6 asserted and still now only most reluctantly
- 7 embrace.
- 8 The Court has never adopted that kind
- 9 of reasoning under Article III and it should not
- 10 begin with this case.
- 11 And the second implication of the
- case's framing is that if the case weren't moot,
- the only question presented on the merits would
- 14 be whether a premises license must, as an
- adjunct thereto, include the implied transport
- 16 rights sought by Petitioners.
- 17 Though Petitioners now invoke a
- 18 general right to bear arms outside the home, a
- 19 premises license is not addressed to that
- 20 purpose. A premises license is instead issued
- 21 for possession in a particular place, and
- 22 Petitioners never challenged the separate New
- 23 York license that is addressed to carrying
- 24 weapons outside the home, which is the carry
- 25 license. So those broad questions are not

- 1 properly part of this case.
- 2 Turning first to the issue of
- 3 mootness, and I'll go straight to the question
- 4 of coffee stops, there are two -- two levels to
- 5 this response. First is, there is no dispute on
- 6 that question. The city's enforcement -- the --
- 7 the governing standard is provided by state law
- 8 here because the state enactment preempts local
- 9 law.
- The "continuous and uninterrupted"
- 11 language cited by my friend is not in the state
- 12 law. The city acknowledges that. And the
- 13 city's enforcement position is that coffee
- stops, bathroom breaks are entirely permissible
- 15 --
- JUSTICE ALITO: But let's go to
- 17 something --
- MR. DEARING: -- under current law.
- 19 JUSTICE ALITO: -- beyond a coffee
- 20 stop or a bathroom break. Suppose they had
- 21 prevailed under and obtained a judgment that the
- 22 old law was a violation of the Second Amendment,
- 23 and suppose that after that, one of the
- 24 plaintiffs had made a trip to a firing range in,
- 25 let's say, New Jersey and, while there, decided

- 1 to stop to visit his mother for a couple of
- 2 hours to take care of a few things for her.
- Would there be any law that that would
- 4 violate?
- 5 MR. DEARING: That would be, I
- 6 think -- I'm not certain that it would. I think
- 7 that would have to be a question now to be
- 8 litigated under the state law, which would have
- 9 nothing --
- JUSTICE ALITO: No, no, no, no, we're
- 11 back, without the new laws, city or state, would
- 12 that have been -- would that have been legal
- 13 conduct?
- MR. DEARING: If that had happened
- prior to the changes in conduct?
- JUSTICE ALITO: After a judgment that
- the old law was unconstitutional, prior to the
- 18 enactment of any new law.
- 19 MR. DEARING: I don't think it's --
- 20 it's at all clear because that question -- those
- 21 kind of questions were never put at issue or
- 22 litigated in the case. And so --
- JUSTICE ALITO: Well, what -- you
- 24 don't know what -- you don't know whether
- 25 there's any city law that that would violate?

1 MR. DEARING: If there were a judgment that said that our law had been struck down --2 our former --3 4 JUSTICE ALITO: Yeah. MR. DEARING: -- law had been struck 5 6 down? 7 JUSTICE ALITO: Yeah. 8 MR. DEARING: I'm not aware of any 9 city law that that --10 JUSTICE ALITO: So then why is this case moot? Because they didn't get all that 11 12 they wanted. They wanted a declaration that the 13 old law was unconstitutional, period. 14 And what they have obtained as a result of the new city ordinance and the new 15 16 state law is a rule that says, yes, you can take 17 the firearm to a firing range outside of New 18 York City, but it must be a direct trip. 19 It can't include an hour spent with 20 your mother. 21 MR. DEARING: I think that -- the 22 answer is that Article III analysis is always 23 focused on what the plaintiffs asked for, not 24 speculation about what might have been an

injunction here. And the -- and the only thing

- 1 that was ever put at issue here and -- and --
- and you can see this by looking at the actual
- 3 injunction that plaintiffs framed, was the
- 4 permissible categories of destination, shooting
- 5 ranges and second homes outside the city.
- 6 JUSTICE KAGAN: Where is the
- 7 injunction that plaintiffs framed?
- 8 MR. DEARING: It's in -- it's in a
- 9 number of docket entries, and I don't remember
- 10 the numbers offhand, but they're in the summary
- judgment in -- in both motions for preliminary
- 12 judgment -- injunction, motions for summary
- 13 judgment, across several different docket
- 14 numbers, injunctions were repeatedly proposed by
- 15 the Petitioners. They're basically verbatim,
- 16 identical.
- 17 And what they say is they want an
- injunction restraining the city from enforcing
- its old rule in any manner that would prohibit
- 20 or preclude plaintiffs from traveling to
- 21 shooting ranges and second homes outside of --
- JUSTICE ALITO: And why wouldn't that
- 23 include a non-direct trip?
- 24 MR. DEARING: Your Honor, the issue of
- 25 directness was never ever litigated as part of

- 1 this case. It was never in the complaint. We
- 2 have no idea what -- what the answer to that
- 3 question might be if it had been litigated, but
- 4 it is not what plaintiffs -- the -- the
- 5 Article III analysis focuses on what plaintiffs
- 6 asked for and what they asked for dealt with
- 7 permissible categories of destination and that
- 8 is more than fully addressed by the state and
- 9 city laws.
- 10 To -- to turn to -- now to the
- 11 question of future consequences. We are -- we
- 12 would -- as I've said, the issue about coffee
- 13 stops is an entirely feigned dispute. We would
- 14 not undertake any -- any prosecution or action
- 15 now based on that or any other violation of the
- 16 repealed law at this point.
- 17 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Is there -- is
- 18 there any way in which any violation could
- 19 prejudice a gun owner?
- 20 MR. DEARING: Not that -- not that I
- 21 can think of. The city is committed to -- to
- 22 closing the book on that old rule and we're not
- 23 going to take it into effect.
- 24 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Is there any
- 25 way in which a finding of mootness would

- 1 prejudice further options available to the
- 2 Petitioners in this case, for example, seeking
- 3 damages?
- 4 MR. DEARING: I don't -- I don't think
- 5 so. I mean, they -- they -- it's possible
- 6 they'd have -- they'd have a time bar on --
- 7 on -- on damages, but it depends -- it would
- 8 depend on the allegation they've made. They've
- 9 never made any allegations related to damages,
- 10 and I think we'd have to assess that based on
- 11 the allegations they make.
- 12 I think the other key point on future
- 13 consequences is there's really no factual basis
- in the complaint for that. Mr. Clement for the
- 15 first time today suggests that -- that -- that
- the complaint may alluded to a possibility of
- 17 past violations. It certainly did not allege
- 18 that these Petitioners had violated this -- the
- 19 rule in the past.
- 20 And the most important thing to know
- 21 about -- about those paragraphs of the complaint
- 22 is that the -- the Petitioners would have
- 23 been -- would have had their licenses renewed at
- least twice by now.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Counsel, can I just

- 1 make sure I understood you correctly earlier? I
- 2 understood you to suggest that there there will
- 3 be no collateral consequences to anyone for
- 4 violating the city's prior ban, any kind of
- 5 collateral consequences.
- 6 MR. DEARING: I think there's no basis
- 7 to think there would be.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: No, I'm wondering --
- 9 you're -- you're representing the city, and so
- 10 I'm asking the city's representative here --
- 11 MR. DEARING: Yes.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: -- that the city --
- that there will be no collateral consequences
- 14 from the city to individuals who violated the
- 15 prior ban?
- MR. DEARING: Absolutely correct,
- there will be none.
- 18 JUSTICE GORSUCH: All right.
- 19 JUSTICE GINSBURG: And you're making
- that representation to this Court?
- 21 MR. DEARING: I'm making that
- 22 representation to this Court on the record on
- 23 behalf of the City of New York.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I'm not going to,
- 25 because I want to be careful for you and for

- 1 society, you're not representing if they shot
- 2 somebody with a gun that you're not going to
- 3 prosecute them for that?
- 4 MR. DEARING: Correct.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: You're just not
- 6 going to prosecute them for any violation of
- 7 this old law?
- 8 MR. DEARING: Of the repealed
- 9 provisions of the law, that's right. If -- if
- 10 there were other potential acts of loaded guns,
- 11 violent acts, that -- that's different. But the
- 12 repealed provisions of the old law we will
- 13 not prosecute anyone for with any --
- 14 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, I guess
- my -- my question and some of the others went
- 16 beyond prosecution. The question is whether
- they'd be prejudiced in any way, for example,
- 18 with respect to qualifying for a -- a premises
- 19 license under the new law, would the fact of a
- 20 violation of the prior law be used against them?
- 21 MR. DEARING: It will not. It
- 22 absolutely will not. And -- and I think a
- 23 deeper point is there is no reason to think
- 24 there are -- there are such violations that the
- 25 Petitioners -- that there are such violations.

- 1 If we refer back to the complaint as I noted
- 2 before, these Petitioners have been renewed --
- 3 their licenses have been renewed twice at least
- 4 since that complaint was filed.
- 5 JUSTICE KAGAN: Do you have a way --
- 6 sorry. Do you have a way, Mr. Dearing -- I take
- 7 it these licensing decisions are made by the
- 8 office, an office in the New York Police
- 9 Department.
- 10 Do you have a way of communicating to
- 11 that office what they are not permitted to do,
- 12 given your representation.
- MR. DEARING: Absolutely. And
- 14 we've -- we've consulted that office. They're
- 15 aware of this. We will communicate to them that
- 16 -- that no such consequences are -- are to be
- imposed and the event -- in the extremely
- 18 unlikely, and I think not going to happen, event
- 19 that any -- that anyone thought that that might
- 20 have happened, they should bring that to the
- 21 attention of the Law Department and we'll review
- it and make sure that it's addressed.
- I do, though, want to just put a
- 24 slightly finer point on the lack of factual
- 25 basis, in any event, for the claim of future

- 1 consequences.
- The Petitioners only now have made
- 3 this allusion to their complaint. They've been
- 4 renewed twice since then. The Court, of course,
- 5 ordinarily presumes individuals follow the law.
- 6 Even before this case, our -- our
- 7 practice was not to ask people to disclose past
- 8 violations unless it had resulted in an arrest,
- 9 summons, revocation, or something like that, and
- 10 there is no suggestion that any Petitioner has
- 11 had any of those events.
- 12 JUSTICE ALITO: But do you think it's
- 13 really fair for you at this point to look for
- 14 specific allegations in the complaint to defeat
- a claim of mootness that the plaintiffs had no
- 16 reason whatsoever to anticipate until after we
- 17 granted certiorari and the city decided to try
- 18 to moot this case?
- 19 MR. DEARING: This -- that just
- 20 confirms that the plaintiffs got everything they
- 21 asked for in this case. There's nothing -- the
- 22 -- the issue of potential --
- JUSTICE ALITO: Well, how does that
- 24 confirm that they got everything that they asked
- 25 for? If you say, well, they didn't ask for

- 1 nominal damages, they didn't ask for actual
- 2 damages, they didn't specifically allege that
- 3 they violated the old law, you -- you really --
- 4 they didn't allege that they wanted to make a
- 5 non-direct trip, how could any plaintiff
- 6 possibly have anticipated that until you took
- 7 the quite extraordinary step of trying to moot
- 8 the case after we granted review?
- 9 MR. DEARING: First, the state
- 10 legislature has passed a new State law here.
- 11 JUSTICE ALITO: Yeah. And did the
- 12 city have nothing to do with the enactment of
- 13 that law?
- MR. DEARING: The city supported the
- 15 law, as we do with many -- many potential bills,
- and most of them go nowhere. The state
- 17 legislature and the governor made their own
- 18 decision -- make their own decisions about what
- 19 to enact, of course, responsive to their
- 20 state-wide constituency. And that's what
- 21 happened here.
- 22 And that, by the way, is a good thing,
- 23 not a bad one. The government should respond to
- 24 litigation, should assess its laws or other --
- or political subdivisions' laws when they are

- 1 challenged. And --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Counsel, let's say I
- 3 -- I agree with you -- I mean, I accept that.
- 4 It's -- it's great when local governments
- 5 respond to the constitutional constraints that
- 6 are suggested by others in litigation.
- 7 But it does seem a bit much, doesn't
- 8 it, to fault plaintiffs for not having a
- 9 specific damages requirement in their prayer for
- 10 relief in a complaint that was framed years ago.
- 11 This litigation, I think, has taken five-plus
- 12 years, and that has become relevant only at this
- 13 late stage after the city and the state have
- 14 enacted a new law.
- Why isn't the prospect of allowing
- damages to be added to the complaint enough? In
- 17 a 1983 action, damages are clearly available.
- 18 The complaint, long ago as it was filed, did say
- 19 that they sought all available relief, you know,
- 20 typical prayer for relief. Rule 54 doesn't hold
- 21 people to their prayers for relief. Why isn't
- there at least a fair prospect that a district
- 23 court on remand would allow an amended complaint
- 24 to seek actual damages?
- MR. DEARING: Well, two answers. One

- is that that's not how the Court has approached
- 2 mootness questions. And, two, a fair prospect
- 3 is not enough to sustain a case under Article
- 4 III. But --
- 5 JUSTICE GORSUCH: A fair prospect of
- 6 relief isn't enough to sustain?
- 7 MR. DEARING: A fair prospect whether
- 8 the claim is even in the case at all. That --
- 9 whether the claim -- a decision about whether
- 10 the claim is in the case must precede a decision
- 11 on the merits. That question is a
- 12 jurisdictional one. And the solicitor general
- 13 is mistaken that it can be deferred to later and
- 14 the merits reached anyway.
- But -- but the prior point, I think,
- is equally important, which is that it's not a
- 17 matter of faulting the plaintiffs, but the
- 18 plaintiffs chose the case they wanted to bring,
- 19 as plaintiffs do.
- 20 Demands for relief are taken very
- 21 seriously. They're crafted carefully. And the
- 22 -- one of the reasons they're crafted carefully
- is that litigation -- demands are meant to cause
- 24 a defendant to consider whether to meet that
- 25 demand. And in -- in this case, this demand was

- 1 crafted not just in the prayer for relief but in
- 2 numerous paragraphs of the complaint. The --
- 3 the case was consistently litigated in accord
- 4 with that structure of the complaint. And, in
- 5 fact, even after mootness -- the mootness
- 6 question arose, the Petitioners in their -- in
- 7 their lengthy comprehensive response never
- 8 suggested --
- 9 JUSTICE GORSUCH: So you think it's
- 10 totally irrelevant that the state has at this
- late stage sought to moot the case when we're
- 12 assessing the prospect and the interests of the
- 13 plaintiff in seeking damages?
- MR. DEARING: I think it is, because
- 15 -- because the reason demands are made in
- 16 litigation is to prompt a defendant to decide
- 17 whether to meet them, not to decide later if
- 18 they do meet them, to -- to reinvent the
- 19 case and make it something else. And the
- 20 clearest example --
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: Do you agree that
- 22 there --
- 23 MR. DEARING: -- from this Court's
- 24 cases --
- 25 JUSTICE GORSUCH: -- do you agree that

- 1 there would at least be a fair prospect that a
- 2 district court on remand might disagree with you
- 3 and find that there is a reasonable excuse for
- 4 the plaintiffs' introduction of damages at this
- 5 stage?
- 6 MR. DEARING: I don't think so. I'm
- 7 not -- I'm not aware of any case where anything
- 8 like that has happened. In fact, consistent
- 9 decisions from the courts of appeals have said
- 10 these were --
- 11 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Let's say if we
- 12 disagreed with you, then what?
- MR. DEARING: Still not enough, I
- 14 think, because the -- the prospect of adding a
- 15 potential live claim is not enough to -- to
- 16 sustain an Article III case or controversy now
- and to allow the court to reach the merits
- 18 before that claim is in the case.
- 19 And the clearest example is Alvarez
- 20 versus Smith. That is a case that -- that --
- 21 where the complaint sought declaratory
- 22 injunctive relief, just like the complaint here,
- 23 but a slight -- a difference, a significant
- 24 difference, in that case, the plaintiffs had a
- 25 motion pending in the district court.

1 JUSTICE GORSUCH: What do you do about 2 the fact that that was pre-Rule 54 and the federal rules and so on? 3 4 MR. DEARING: Alvarez was not pre-Rule 5 -- Alvarez was -- was about a decade ago. Alvarez was long --6 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Oh, I'm sorry. I'm 7 8 sorry. MR. DEARING: -- after Rule 54. 9 10 That's a different -- that's Alejandrino --11 JUSTICE GORSUCH: Alejandrino, sorry. 12 MR. DEARING: -- which is a different 13 Rule 54, I think, is really a red herring case. 14 here. Rule 54 is a question that governs the 15 district court's power -- remedial powers when a live controversy remains continuing before it. 16 17 It says that the district court is not beholden 18 necessarily to what is -- categorically beholden 19 to what is included in a prayer for relief and can craft appropriate remedies. But the Court 20 21 and lower courts do not look to Rule 54 in 22 determining questions under Article III. 23 The right place to look is the 24 complaint, the consistent litigation history, 25 and the courts below that determined what did

- 1 the plaintiff ask for and has what they asked
- for been provided. And that has happened here.
- JUSTICE ALITO: Mr. Dearing, are the
- 4 -- are people in New York less safe now as a
- 5 result of the enactment of the new city and
- 6 state laws than they were before?
- 7 MR. DEARING: We -- we -- no, I don't
- 8 think so. We made a judgment expressed by our
- 9 police commissioner that -- that it was
- 10 consistent with public safety to repeal the
- 11 prior rule and to move forward without it.
- 12 JUSTICE ALITO: Well, if they're not
- 13 less safe, then what possible justification
- 14 could there have been for the old rule, which
- 15 you have abandoned?
- MR. DEARING: It was a reasonable --
- as we've outlined in our briefs, it was a
- 18 reasonable implementation of the -- of the state
- 19 premises license, carry license division. I
- 20 think -- and we've explained that there was --
- 21 was a verification benefit to the way that that
- 22 rule was set up. That verification benefit
- 23 perhaps has not played out as much in practice
- 24 as it had been predicted, and we believe the
- 25 police can work harder and make sure that the

- 1 city stays safe.
- 2 JUSTICE ALITO: So you think the
- 3 Second Amendment permits the imposition of a
- 4 restriction that has no public safety benefit?
- 5 MR. DEARING: I think you have to
- 6 look, first, to consider whether the -- the type
- 7 of restriction -- how the restriction accords
- 8 with the history under the Second Amendment
- 9 before we answer that question.
- 10 And so I -- I think -- I think the
- 11 right place to start, and -- and for our
- 12 purposes, maybe starting with shooting ranges is
- 13 the best, first key point is this must be viewed
- 14 as an adjunct to the premises license. This is
- 15 not just a general statute or generally
- 16 applicable statute.
- 17 It's an adjunct to the premises
- 18 license. It's --
- 19 JUSTICE ALITO: Well, if it's viewed
- in that way, could the city -- would it be
- 21 consistent with the Second Amendment for the
- 22 city to prohibit any trip by a person holding a
- 23 premises license to a firing range?
- 24 MR. DEARING: I think that would be
- 25 doubtful. And the -- and the reason the city

- 1 went beyond what state law says about a premises
- 2 license and -- and authorized transport to
- 3 shooting ranges in the city was because the city
- 4 recognized that -- that training is -- does
- 5 intersect with and is important to effective use
- of the handgun in the home.
- 7 JUSTICE ALITO: So you are
- 8 conceding -- I take it "doubtful" means that it
- 9 would be unconstitutional. You can tell me if
- 10 you -- you -- you don't know the answer to that
- 11 question.
- But, if it -- if that's what it means,
- 13 you're conceding that the Second Amendment
- 14 protects the possession of a firearm outside the
- 15 home under at least some circumstances?
- MR. DEARING: I think what I'm
- 17 conceding is that, in the case of a premises
- 18 license, the Second Amendment has something to
- 19 say about what effective possession in the home
- 20 means. And sometimes that may mean that you
- 21 need to be able to -- that a license holder
- 22 needs to be able to undertake certain activities
- 23 outside the home.
- JUSTICE ALITO: Well, if the person is
- 25 taking the firearm, the handgun, from the home

- 1 to a firing range, the person is out on the
- 2 streets of New York, and if -- unless a total
- 3 ban on taking it to a firing range would be
- 4 consistent with the Second Amendment, it follows
- 5 that the Second Amendment, under at least some
- 6 circumstances, protects the possession of a
- 7 handgun outside the home. Isn't that correct?
- 8 MR. DEARING: I think -- I think
- 9 that's a fair way to look at it, that -- that --
- 10 that -- but -- but, from our perspective, the
- 11 right question regarding a premises license is,
- 12 did the -- did the rule impermissibly burden
- 13 effective use of the handgun in the premises?
- 14 In the same way that to get a gun to a premises,
- 15 you have to get it somewhere outside -- you
- 16 know, purchase it somewhere outside your
- 17 premises and bring it there, that certain things
- 18 that happen outside the home may -- may be
- 19 integrally related to effective use of a handgun
- 20 inside the home.
- 21 But, when you look at a premises
- 22 license, and not speaking about the Second
- 23 Amendment at large or writ large, but the
- 24 premises license specifically, the only proper
- lens to look at the question through is whether

- 1 the restriction impinges on effective use of the
- 2 handgun in the home.
- And with regard to training, we have
- 4 two -- two related reasons why it doesn't. The
- 5 first is to look to historical restrictions,
- 6 which were not themselves directed at premises
- 7 licenses but are illuminating, and,
- 8 historically, the location where people were
- 9 permitted to train was -- was fairly extensively
- 10 restricted, provided that opportunities to train
- 11 remained available.
- 12 And we -- that's the principle we
- distill from history. And -- and when you apply
- it to the premises license here, what -- the
- 15 conclusion is that the ability to train locally
- in a circumstance where market forces are
- 17 allowed to operate to determine how many
- 18 facilities are present, where there is no
- 19 indication that supply was insufficient to meet
- 20 demand, and where the Petitioners here actually
- 21 in their summary judgment affidavits never even
- 22 said they wished to engage in any form of
- 23 regular training outside the city.
- 24 All they said is they wanted to go to
- 25 shooting competitions -- regional shooting

- 1 competitions out of the city, that on this
- 2 record, the former restriction or the former
- 3 rule implementing the premises license to allow
- 4 fire -- training locally meets Second Amendment
- 5 requirements.
- 6 JUSTICE ALITO: Well, how should --
- 7 what methodology should the courts use in
- 8 approaching Second Amendment questions?
- 9 If they conclude that text and history
- 10 protect a -- the text and history of the Second
- 11 Amendment protect a particular activity, is that
- the end of the question or do they then go on
- and apply some level of scrutiny?
- 14 MR. DEARING: I think -- I think,
- 15 first, we look -- we look to history and
- determine whether history answers the question
- one way or the other, whether it's
- 18 constitutional or unconstitutional.
- 19 JUSTICE ALITO: Right.
- 20 MR. DEARING: And in a significant
- 21 number of cases, history will not speak with one
- voice or conclusively on that subject and then
- the right step is to move on to an assessment of
- justification and fit under a means and scrutiny
- 25 approach.

1 JUSTICE ALITO: But if history says 2 this is protected, then that's the end of the 3 question, there's no resort to some level of 4 scrutiny? MR. DEARING: 5 If history conclusively shows that the restriction is impermissible, 6 7 then I -- I think -- as in Heller, Heller is an 8 example of that phenomenon. Heller determined 9 without consulting means and scrutiny, that 10 the -- that the law in question sort of went to the core of and destroyed, in essence, the --11 12 the -- the -- the Second Amendment right and, 13 therefore, was -- and more severe than any --14 any historical, any analogous or prior law and 15 its degree of burden on the Second Amendment --JUSTICE BREYER: No --16 17 MR. DEARING: -- right. 18 JUSTICE BREYER: -- you're supposed to 19 do there, because you're correctly stating the 20 views of some judges. 21 MR. DEARING: Right. 22 JUSTICE BREYER: And some judges had 23 an opposite view.

of that, that's correct.

MR. DEARING: I'm aware -- I'm aware

24

1	(Laughter.)
2	MR. DEARING: Our our our
3	view is that is that history can answer some
4	questions pretty directly and and in other
5	many in other in a in a significant
6	number of cases, history doesn't speak so
7	clearly and that the most reliable method of
8	answering the question in those cases is a is
9	means and scrutiny.
LO	JUSTICE GINSBURG: One one problem
L1	with the prior regulation, if you wanted to have
L2	a gun in your second home, you had to buy a
L3	second gun. And what public safety or any other
L4	reasonable end is served by saying you have to
L5	have two guns instead of one and one of those
L6	guns has to be maintained in a place that is
L7	often unoccupied and that, therefore, more
L8	vulnerable to theft?
L9	MR. DEARING: I think that the the
20	question on second homes, there Petitioners have
21	identified a difficult application of our former
22	rule that wasn't really contemplated when the
23	rule was was adopted.
24	I still think, though, if you look
25	historically, and the the right way to answer

- 1 a question about whether it was unconstitutional
- 2 is to ask whether there had been some historical
- 3 tradition of enabling individuals to use the
- 4 same handgun to protect two different homes.
- 5 Of course our rule never spoke to the
- 6 question of whether an individual could have a
- 7 handgun in a -- in a residence outside
- 8 our jurisdiction. That's something completely
- 9 that we don't speak to -- we could never speak
- 10 to.
- 11 And when you look at the question
- 12 about -- about what happened historically, there
- 13 have been incidental burdens that would have
- 14 been burdened similarly that kind of conduct in
- 15 the past. And --
- 16 JUSTICE BREYER: Suppose -- I mean,
- this is why these things are difficult for you.
- 18 All right? I understand that.
- 19 But in Massachusetts, historically,
- 20 all the guns and ammunition were stored in a
- 21 central place at night, I believe, at the time
- 22 of the resolution -- revolution. Not in
- 23 anybody's home. And this -- do we have a
- 24 different law for Massachusetts? I quess not.
- 25 What history do we look to?

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And you did at one point, or someone 2 said I am a policeman, I happen to notice 3 there's a gun next to this person in the car who stopped at the stoplight. I say, sir, what are 4 5 you doing with this gun? He says, I am going to 6 a firing range. Oh, I see. You're going to test. Where is it? 7 8 Now if he says it's in Brooklyn, I can 9 find it. If he says it's somewhere 14 miles 10 northwest of Utica in the Adirondacks, I have a 11 harder time. 12 And I don't know who to believe. so it's tough. So there are more guns in New 13 14 York. What happened to that, that argument? 15 MR. DEARING: That argument is the --16 is the argument that -- that is presented on the record of the -- of the detective --17 18 detective -- detective's affidavit, sorry. 19 We, of course, took a close look at 20 that question, and the police commissioner 21 determined that -- that the rule could be 22 repealed without a negative impact on public 23 safety. 24 I do think the police will have to work harder to verify what's happening in those 25

- 1 situations, but we -- we are confident that they
- 2 can do it and they will do it --
- JUSTICE ALITO: Why --
- 4 MR. DEARING: -- successfully.
- 5 JUSTICE ALITO: Why will they have to
- 6 work harder? Somebody who lives in midtown is
- 7 stopped and -- with a gun and the officer says,
- 8 where are you going? I'm going to a firing
- 9 range in Jersey City, which is right across the
- 10 river.
- 11 That's tougher than, I'm going to a
- 12 firing range in Staten Island. And I think
- three of your seven ranges are in Staten Island;
- 14 am I right?
- 15 MR. DEARING: Two -- two are in Staten
- 16 Island.
- 17 JUSTICE ALITO: Two are in Staten
- 18 Island?
- 19 MR. DEARING: I think it is a little
- 20 bit tougher but of course the -- the person may
- 21 not say Jersey City either.
- JUSTICE ALITO: All right. How about
- 23 somebody who lives in the north Bronx says, I'm
- 24 going across the border to Westchester County.
- 25 That's tougher for you to -- to look into than,

- 1 yes, I'm going all the way to Staten Island?
- 2 MR. DEARING: Well, still the -- still
- 3 what happens in Staten Island is within the
- 4 Police Department's jurisdiction. They have
- 5 access to records, immediate access to records.
- 6 They have -- that range is subject to the
- 7 requirement to maintain a roster of individuals
- 8 to use it.
- 9 I agree with you that it's not -- that
- 10 it is enforceable as to Jersey City or as to
- 11 Westchester and that's part of the reason the
- 12 city is determined to change the rule, even
- ignoring the fact that the state came in and
- 14 preempted it, but I do think it is not -- it is
- 15 more difficult and that -- that the judgment
- 16 previously was that with respect to premises
- 17 licensees, of course, not a carry license, which
- is not at issue in this case, has never been
- 19 challenged, the target license that Mr. Clement
- 20 referred to was understood to be a kind of carry
- 21 license.
- 22 And if that was the heart of the
- 23 complaint, the -- the claim should have been
- 24 that the city needs to reinstate that carry
- 25 license. That was not the claim in this case.

1	The claim in this case was
2	specifically articulated by the Petitioners that
3	they have a premises license, this is about the
4	scope of a premises license, and the claim made
5	framed by the Petitioners most clearly in their
6	summary judgment papers at page 6 was that the
7	relief sought here is necessary to allow the
8	full exercise of the of the right of defense
9	of hearth and home in the home.
10	They accepted the premises license
11	framing and the entire case has been litigated
12	
13	JUSTICE GORSUCH: Counsel, can I
14	MR. DEARING: Through that lens.
15	JUSTICE GORSUCH: I JUST want to
16	circle back to the direct and continuous travel
17	requirement of the current rule and Justice
18	Alito's question about visiting your mother.
19	Is it now the city's position that any
20	reasonable stops are permissible?
21	MR. DEARING: That is our
22	enforcement reasonably necessary stops in the
23	course of travel
24	JUSTICE GORSUCH: Reasonably
25	necessary

```
1
               MR. DEARING: -- are permissible.
 2
               JUSTICE GORSUCH: Now does that
 3
      include stopping to visit your mother --
 4
               MR. DEARING: I haven't -- I'm --
 5
               JUSTICE GORSUCH: Or use the --
 6
               MR. DEARING: I'm not sure I know the
     answer to that.
7
               JUSTICE GORSUCH: Get a cup of coffee?
 8
      I mean, I'm not sure a cup -- is coffee
9
10
      reasonably necessary?
11
                (Laughter.)
12
               MR. DEARING: Probably depends who you
13
      ask. But the Police Department has --
14
                (Laughter.)
15
               MR. DEARING: The Police Department
     has affirmed and we have made clear that -- the
16
17
     enforcement position is that a stop for a cup of
18
     coffee is not a problem.
19
               JUSTICE GORSUCH: So that's reasonably
20
21
               MR. DEARING: And in fact --
               JUSTICE GORSUCH: -- necessary.
22
23
     what -- what's going to qualify? I -- I'm just
     a little unclear about that.
24
25
               MR. DEARING: I think that -- well,
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- 1 the controlling standard here -- I'm -- I'm
- 2 giving you the enforcement position of the
- 3 Police Department on the questions we have
- 4 considered. But the controlling standard here,
- 5 I should hasten to add, is provided by state
- 6 law.
- We -- we do not offer a definitive --
- 8 cannot offer a definitive construction of that
- 9 law. And I think the -- the question about what
- 10 that state law means is one that's going to need
- 11 to be litigated probably in state courts, but
- 12 before there's any dispute here ripe for -- for
- 13 constitutional adjudication, the meaning of that
- law is going to have to be determined.
- JUSTICE GORSUCH: So we have no
- 16 representations to us as to what is -- is direct
- and continuous, other than coffee is okay.
- MR. DEARING: Coffee -- what -- what I
- 19 know -- what I -- what I can represent because
- 20 -- because it's come up before, coffee,
- 21 restrooms, food, gas, the kinds of things that
- 22 you ordinarily would stop for in the course of
- 23 -- of travel, I hadn't considered the mother or
- 24 mother-in-law example before. I think that's
- 25 going to need to play out in the state courts.

- The more important point here, though,

  is that none of those issues were ever part of

  this controversy. The -- this controversy was

  about two things, as repeatedly emphasized by

  Petitioners throughout the --
- 6 JUSTICE GORSUCH: I understand --
- 7 MR. DEARING: -- litigation.
- 8 JUSTICE GORSUCH: -- that. But you're
- 9 asking us to say that there is no controversy
- 10 now. So I am trying to just nail down exactly
- 11 what is the delta, if any, remaining in the
- 12 relief that might have been sought and the
- 13 relief you've provided.
- MR. DEARING: Well, this is all -- I
- 15 guess -- in short what I'm saying is -- Mr.
- 16 Chief Justice, may I answer?
- 17 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Sure.
- MR. DEARING: In short what I'm saying
- is this is not relief that was ever sought.
- There may be a controversy here, but it's a new
- 21 controversy, it would need to be litigated in a
- 22 new case. And the relief -- the -- the
- 23 speculation about what an injunction
- 24 theoretically could have included is not the way
- 25 this Court analyzes questions under Article III.

1 thank you. 2 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, 3 counsel. Three minutes, Mr. Clement. 4 5 REBUTTAL ARGUMENT OF PAUL D. CLEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONERS 6 MR. CLEMENT: Thank you, Mr. Chief 7 8 Justice. 9 Just a few points in rebuttal. First 10 of all, Justice Kagan, we never got to the point of a proposed injunction in this case. We 11 12 didn't exactly succeed really well under the current Second Circuit law, so we never got to 13 14 the point of proposing an injunction. 15 The only thing my friend is referring to are some allusions to the kind of relief we 16 17 wanted in a summary judgment motion. 18 If we had gotten to that point, we 19 would have wanted clarity, the kind of clarity 20 that a federal court applying the Second 21 Amendment can provide. You don't have to depend 22 on a city's representation about --23 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Mr. Clement --24 MR. CLEMENT: -- state law. JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- your complaint 25

- 1 from relief states it: "An order preliminarily
- 2 and permanently enjoining the defendants" -- I
- 3 skip out whoever else -- "who receive actual
- 4 notice of the injunction from enforcing this
- 5 prohibition from traveling beyond the borders of
- 6 the City of New York to attend a gun range,
- 7 shooting competition, or to use a lawfully
- 8 possessed and licensed firearm for the purposes
- 9 of defending one's home, person, or property."
- 10 And you asked for a declaratory relief
- in -- with those same words.
- 12 MR. CLEMENT: That's right, Justice
- 13 Sotomayor. I don't think we would have been
- 14 tethered to those in a proposed injunction.
- But if we're going to go to the
- 16 complaint, I think we should look at page 40 --
- 17 at paragraph 41, at Joint Appendix 36, where we
- 18 asked for "unrestricted access to gun ranges and
- 19 second homes." Unrestricted.
- I don't think at this late stage we
- 21 are still being offered unrestricted access.
- 22 And I think it's --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Well, let --
- MR. CLEMENT: -- important to
- 25 understand --

1 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- let's stop. 2 Justice Alito said stopping at your mother's. When you say unrestricted, does that mean I can 3 carry my gun for three days? 4 5 Do you think that a court actually 6 would have crafted an injunction at all with hypothetical situations? 7 It would have said you can carry your 8 9 gun to the range, and then would have left for further litigation, specific applications of 10 11 that general rule. 12 MR. CLEMENT: I -- I don't think so, Your Honor. 13 14 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Unless you had --MR. CLEMENT: I think what would have 15 happened is the parties would have had their 16 17 proposed injunctions. There would have been a 18 huge delta between them. And then we would have 19 disputed the same kind of questions that are 20 still being disputed here. 21 But we wouldn't have to rely on the city's representation about state law because we 22 23 could have an injunction that enforced the Second Amendment. 24 25 I think it's important to understand

1 how state law and city law --2 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So you want us --3 MR. CLEMENT: -- work together. JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- to create --4 5 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Maybe you 6 could proceed --7 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- the law. 8 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: -- with the 9 other points you intended to --10 MR. CLEMENT: I -- I -- I would be delighted to, Your Honor. 11 12 I think the way that city law and state law work together here is all the state 13 14 law says is we're going to allow your transport if it's direct. It doesn't otherwise specify 15 what's direct. 16 17 The city took it on itself in Section 7 of the new regs to tell you what they 18 19 at least at that point thought was sufficiently 20 direct, which is continuous and uninterrupted. 21 Now, they're now making 22 representations that the reg doesn't mean what 23 it seems to mean and the like. And I would say 24 that my client shouldn't have to rely on those 25 representations. They should get that in

Τ.	writing in an injunction that would be
2	enforceable. That would be effectual relief.
3	Again, I think the damages point was
4	not our principal claim here, but let's think
5	about in real time what would have happened is
6	as soon as we filed the lawsuit, the city would
7	have turned around, dropped its case entirely,
8	and then admitted to the court that it served no
9	public safety purpose.
10	Then I think my clients, who for years
11	had tried to comply with the law and restricted
12	where they wanted to go, would have immediately
13	sued for damages.
14	I don't think they should lose that
15	right just because the city's maneuvering
16	happened post-certiorari.
17	Thank you, Your Honor.
18	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you,
19	counsel. The case is submitted.
20	(Whereupon, at 11:07 a.m., the case
21	was submitted.)
22	
23	
24	
25	

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