

**Owens, Olivia**

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**From:** DS Outdoors <dianesteeloutdoors@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 23, 2026 1:58 PM  
**To:** Owens, Olivia  
**Subject:** Fwd: Local Law Intro 3-1 (2026)

EC LEO APR 23 '26 PM 2:19

**[Caution: this email is not from an Erie County employee: attachments or links may not be safe.]**

It was brought to my attention that the submission below was not read on the record. Please correct this.

Diane Steel

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** DS Outdoors <dianesteeloutdoors@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Wed, Apr 22, 2026 at 11:24 AM  
**Subject:** Local Law Intro 3-1 (2026)  
**To:** <olivia.owens@erie.gov>

I am writing as a mother and hunter to express my strong support for the proposed local law allowing 12–13-year-olds to hunt deer with a firearm under the direct supervision of a licensed adult.

For families like mine, hunting is more than a seasonal activity. It’s not just about hunting—it’s about teaching safety, responsibility, patience, and respect for the outdoors. Those are things that are best learned early, with a parent right there guiding them.

New York State already allows this opportunity, and it has been successfully implemented in counties across the state. Erie County remains the exception. As a parent, I believe it is important that families here are afforded the same opportunities as those in neighboring communities.

Safety is always my top priority. The data from the NYSDEC clearly shows that over the past five years there have been zero incidents involving youth hunters in this age group. That says a lot about how well this program works when it’s done the right way—with training, supervision, and clear rules.

Kids get busy as they get older. Between school, sports, and everything else, it gets harder to find the time. Starting at 12 or 13 gives them a chance to learn while they’re still interested and able to spend that time with a parent.

At the end of the day, I believe parents should be able to decide when their child is ready. This law keeps the safety rules in place—it just gives families the option.

I respectfully ask you to support this law and give families like mine the chance to pass on something that means a lot to us.

Thank you.

Diane Steel