



Panera Bread is joining other restaurants in asking its customers not to bring their guns into their casual dining locations, said the company Monday.

"The request is simply we recognize everyone's rights," said Panera CEO Ron Shaich. "But we also recognize that we are building communities in our cafes and are where people come to catch a breath."

While it makes the request of its customers, it will not conflict with local and state laws regarding firearms and will not charge management with enforcing the disarmament of customers.

"We're simply respectfully requesting that people leave their guns at home," said Shaich. "It's that simple."

Gun law advocates applauded the decision, saying it was a step in the right direction.

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