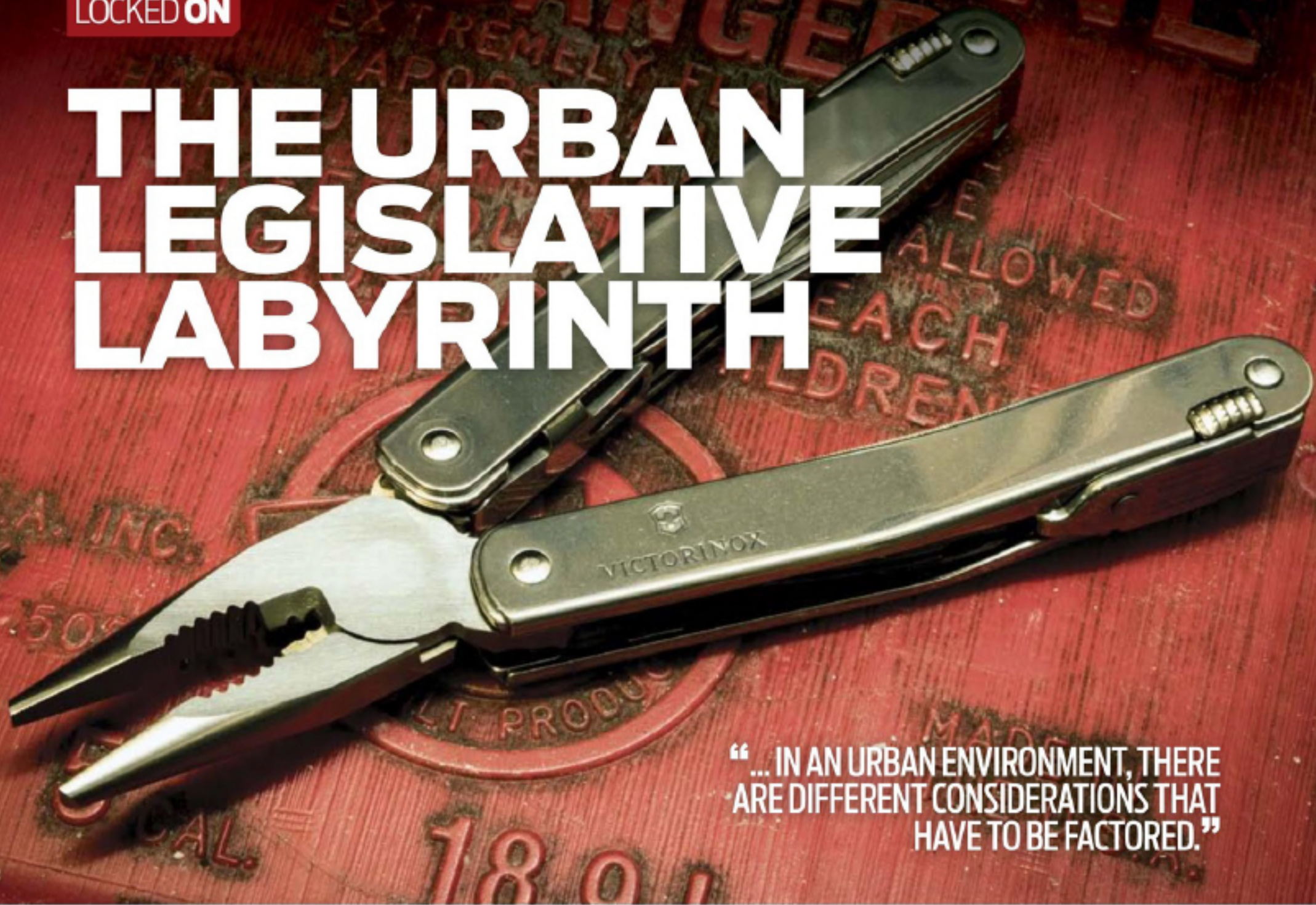


# THE URBAN LEGISLATIVE LABYRINTH



“... IN AN URBAN ENVIRONMENT, THERE ARE DIFFERENT CONSIDERATIONS THAT HAVE TO BE FACTORED.”

STORY AND PHOTO BY JOSHUA SWANAGON

**P**roper planning prevents poor performance. I am a big proponent of always having a knife on your person, so much so that I usually carry anywhere from three to four knives on me at any given time; but almost never fewer than two. It isn't because I am paranoid, it is because I use knives multiple times a day for myriad chores.

In an urban environment, there are different considerations that have to be factored. What is the legal size to carry? What type of knife can you carry? What types of tasks would be common in an urban environment?

These are all very specific questions that would pertain to your location. Each state has its own laws relevant to what is legal and what isn't. To make matters even more interesting, each county has its own legislation governing the carry of knives. And if that wasn't enough, many towns even have their own ordinances.

Although I am an advocate of carrying a knife that can also double for self-defense in an urban environment, that brings with it its own serious legal considerations.

A well-made multi-tool is always a good choice in urban environments. They are viewed as tools and generally have blades 3 inches or shorter, which will ensure that you are within your legal rights in almost all municipalities. In addition, they have many uses for a variety of tasks.

For the purpose of my letter I want to focus on helping ensure that you are carrying within all legal parameters.

When it comes to carrying a knife in any urban environment, I recommend that you do your homework and check your local, county and state laws relating to what you can and cannot carry. Although knives are tools that have been around since man figured out that you can cut with chipped obsidian, the government has its own ideas on what knives are. Like it or not, they get the final say.

I recommend checking your state legislature's website for the specific laws in your state, but for those of us who don't speak legalese, there are some good reference sources to help put your state's laws into laymen's terms. Just do a quick Google search, and you will find different resources to help guide you through the labyrinth of legislation.

Stay sharp and keep it real. **KI**

*Joshua Swanagon*