

August 7, 2009

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

**Re: Recommendations from 450 Mayors for Regulation, Enforcement, and Best Practices to Combat Illegal Guns**

Dear President Obama:

Too often, the debate on illegal guns has been ideological, rather than pragmatic, producing stalemates in Congress. Our coalition of Mayors Against Illegal Guns, including more than 450 Republicans, Democrats, and independents representing over 56 million Americans, was formed to move this debate forward and arrive at common sense solutions. Enclosed is a report that includes 40 recommendations that can be effected through executive action and would not require new legislation. Implementing these recommendations would achieve a goal that all participants in the gun debate support: enforcing laws already on the books.

Here in our own cities, mayors and our police chiefs are developing innovative enforcement initiatives, community engagement programs, and policing strategies to fight gun crime – but we can't do it alone. We are grateful to federal agents who work tirelessly in partnership with our police departments to keep our streets safe, but the efforts of law enforcement across the country have been undermined by a lack of leadership in Washington. We urge you to change that.

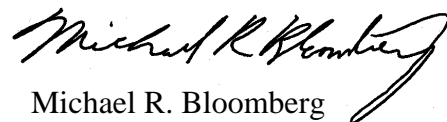
Enclosed here you will find "A Blueprint for Executive Action on Illegal Guns." If enacted, our 40 recommendations would dramatically improve enforcement of existing laws. These recommendations were guided by a review of reports, studies, and thousands of federal prosecutions for gun crimes. They were also developed from dozens of conversations between mayors, academics, policy experts, and law enforcement officials at the local, state and federal levels.

We, like you, affirm the rights of law abiding citizens to bear arms. And we, like you, recognize our duty to enforce the laws necessary to protect innocent Americans from gun violence. We appreciate your dedication to the cause of safer communities and ask that you act on these recommendations, holding all departments under your authority accountable for effectively implementing them.

Sincerely,



Thomas M. Menino  
Mayor of Boston  
Coalition Co-Chair



Michael R. Bloomberg  
Mayor of New York City  
Coalition Co-Chair

Enclosures

cc: The Honorable Joseph Biden, Jr., Vice President of the United States  
The Honorable Rahm Emanuel, Chief of Staff to the President of the United States  
The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary of State, United States  
Department of State  
The Honorable Eric Holder, Jr., Attorney General, United States Department of Justice  
The Honorable Janet Napolitano, Secretary, United States Department of  
Homeland Security  
The Honorable Robert Mueller, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigations  
The Honorable Kenneth Melson, Acting Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,  
Firearms, and Explosives  
The Honorable Peter Orszag, Director, Office of Management and Budget  
The Honorable Valerie Jarrett, Senior Advisor to the President of the United States  
The Honorable Melody Barnes, Domestic Policy Adviser to the President of the United  
States and Director of the Domestic Policy Council  
The Honorable Cecilia Munoz, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, The White House  
The Honorable David Ogden, Deputy Attorney General, United States  
Department of Justice  
The Honorable John Morton, Assistant Secretary, Immigration and Customs Enforcement  
The Honorable Alan Bersin, Special Representative for Border Affairs, Department of  
Homeland Security  
The Honorable Cass Sunstein, Administrator-Designate, Office of Information and  
Regulatory Affairs