

## City of Alexandria, Virginia

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: SEPTEMBER 1, 2006

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR THE STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES BY PARTICIPANTS IN THE NATIONAL MAYORS' INITIATIVE TO REDUCE THE POSSESSION, USE AND TRAFFICKING OF ILLEGAL GUNS IN THE COMMUNITY

---

**ISSUE:** Support for the Statement of Principles by Participants in the National Mayors' Initiative to Reduce the Possession, Use and Trafficking of Illegal Guns in the Community.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That City Council concur with the Statement of Principles adopted by mayors across the country who are participating in the Mayors' Initiative Against Illegal Guns.

**DISCUSSION:** New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg and mayors from other cities around the country (e.g., Atlanta, Baltimore, Buffalo, Dallas, Philadelphia, Seattle, Tulsa, and Washington, D.C.) began a new initiative earlier this year aimed at reducing the possession, use, and trafficking of illegal guns. They are seeking to have other mayors and their cities join in their efforts.

The mayors plan to oppose any federal legislation that would make it easier to traffic in illegal weapons. They intend to avoid any efforts that would question Second Amendment rights or the lawful possession of handguns and other weapons. The mayors see this initiative as an opportunity to have a dialogue with each other and share ideas on "best practices" for dealing with illegal guns (including their possession and use by teenagers and gang members). Alexandria's recent spate of shooting incidents, especially those including teenagers, have created concerns for all of us. This initiative is a good opportunity for the City to address illegal firearms issues.

Attached is a Statement of Principles from the Mayors. Signatories agree to work together to find innovative ways to punish those who possess, use, or traffic in illegal guns; to hold gun dealers accountable if they illegally sell guns to straw purchasers; to work to develop technology to aid in tracing illegal guns, and to support legislation that targets illegal guns. Mayors supporting the initiative are being asked to sign this Statement of Principles.

As a result of the concern about illegal guns, staff is exploring alternatives such as gun turn-in programs to encourage those in possession of such guns to turn them in. We will be coming back to Council with more information on this in the coming weeks.

When Mayor Euille was asked to become a signatory, it was too late to docket the action prior to Council's summer recess. The Mayor signed the Statement of Principles, and is now seeking Council's concurrence with his action.

**ATTACHMENT:** Mayors Against Illegal Guns Statement of Principles

**STAFF:** Bernard Caton, Legislative Director, David Baker, Interim Police Chief

# MAYORS AGAINST ILLEGAL GUNS

## STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

Whereas: 30,000 Americans across the country are killed every year as a result of gun violence, destroying families and communities in big cities and small towns; and

Whereas: As Mayors, we are duty-bound to do everything in our power to protect our residents, especially our children, from harm and there is no greater threat to public safety than the threat of illegal guns;

Now, therefore, we resolve to work together to find innovative new ways to advance the following principles:

- Punish – to the maximum extent of the law – criminals who possess, use, and traffic in illegal guns.
- Target and hold accountable irresponsible gun dealers who break the law by knowingly selling guns to straw purchasers.
- Oppose all federal efforts to restrict cities' right to access, use, and share trace data that is so essential to effective enforcement, or to interfere with the ability of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms to combat illegal gun trafficking.
- Work to develop and use technologies that aid in the detection and tracing of illegal guns.
- Support all local, state, and federal legislation that targets illegal guns; coordinate legislative, enforcement, and litigation strategies; and share information and best practices.
- Invite other cities to join us in this new national effort.

---

*(Signature)*

---

*(City)*