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CRIME VICTIMS, CRIME AND CORRECTION
HOUSING, CONSTRUCTION AND
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
JUDICIARY
SOCIAL SERVICES

NEW YORK
STATE
SENATE



SENATOR ZELNOR Y. MYRIE
20TH SENATE DISTRICT

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Dermot F. Shea
Commissioner, New York Police Department
One Police Plaza
New York, NY 10038
VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

May 19, 2021

Dear Commissioner Shea:

As you are aware, we have been outraged by the recent rise in gun violence in our districts and in communities across New York. While New York has some of the most stringent gun control laws in the nation, the increase in shootings we saw last year has continued to accelerate in 2021. We believe that the ease with which guns are stolen, trafficked or otherwise shared with unauthorized users is a significant contributor to this violence.

Addressing the gun violence crisis requires a holistic, multi-pronged response. One potential solution is to incentivize the development of gun security devices to improve the safety of legally purchased and owned firearms. While the national gun lobby has vociferously opposed even the exploration of potential safety enhancements for its products, a new effort may create a market for such technologies by leveraging the purchasing power of city governments and police departments.

The Gun Safety Consortium is “a newly-forming group led by mayors, police chiefs, county executives, sheriffs, prosecutors and other officials committed to forging a non-partisan, pragmatic path forward to reduce gun violence.”¹ To that end, leaders from 28 municipalities in ten states have so far joined together to encourage the development of technologies and products that will help gun owners secure their firearms, as well as products that can help law enforcement investigate and prevent gun-related crimes. By leveraging their combined procurement power, these agencies have agreed to purchase locks or other devices that gun owners can use to secure their firearms. Critically, these products would be devices that police departments could and would actually use on a regular basis.

As the largest police department in the nation, and the largest purchaser of firearms behind the US military, the NYPD would send a powerful message to the gun industry by joining this consortium. By using its buying and reputational power, the NYPD could help lead the way to encourage innovations in an industry whose products kill and injure thousands of New Yorkers annually.

Under your leadership, the NYPD has not hesitated to express its policy positions on a variety of topics related to criminal justice and public safety. We urge you to join the Gun Safety Consortium, and for the NYPD to take a public stand on one of the most pressing challenges to the safety of our communities. We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter and look forward to hearing from you.

¹ <https://www.gunsafetyconsortium.org/about>

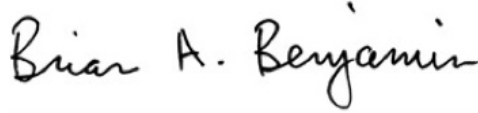
Sincerely,



Senator Zellnor Y. Myrie
20th Senate District



Senator Jamaal T. Bailey
36th Senate District



Senator Brian A. Benjamin
30th Senate District




Senator Alessandra Biaggi
34th Senate District



Senator Jabari Brisport
25th Senate District



Senator Leroy Comrie
14th Senate District



Senator Andrew Gouardes
22nd Senate District



Senator Brad Hoylman
27th Senate District



Senator Robert Jackson
31st Senate District



Senator Brian P. Kavanaugh
26th Senate District



Senator Liz Krueger
28th Senate District



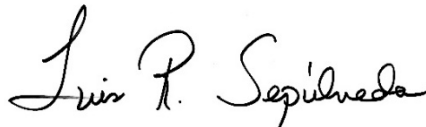
Senator Roxanne J. Persaud
19th Senate District



Senator Jessica Ramos
13th Senate District



Senator Gustavo Rivera
33rd Senate District



Senator Luis R. Sepulveda
32nd Senate District

Cc: Mayor Bill de Blasio