



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
PENNSYLVANIA STATE POLICE  
1800 ELMERTON AVENUE  
HARRISBURG, PA. 17110

COLONEL FRANK E. PAWLOWSKI  
COMMISSIONER

August 27, 2009

The Honorable Joyce Somers  
Mayor of Murrysville  
4100 Sardis Road  
Murrysville, PA 15668

Dear Mayor Somers:

The problem of violence caused by illegal guns in Pennsylvania remains a matter of concern and top priority for all law enforcement. As Commissioner of the Pennsylvania State Police, I want to thank you for stepping forth and speaking out concerning this important issue, and to pledge my support for your efforts as you advance an agenda for commonsense reforms to reduce access to illegal guns across Pennsylvania.

Your bipartisan coalition of more than 100 mayors has been instrumental in Federal initiatives over the past several months. Mayors were the catalyst to reform the Tiahrt Amendment, which thanks to your efforts, allows local law enforcement agencies to access gun trace data collected by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. Additionally, opposition from Mayors was key to blocking the Thune Amendment, which would have undermined our Commonwealth Statutes/Laws regarding concealed carry permits.

At a local level, there are further steps that can be taken toward the goal of reducing access to illegal guns. Lost or stolen handgun reporting is a simple reform that does not infringe on the right of law-abiding citizens to bear arms. Nine municipalities have already enacted the law within their own borders. The local ordinances are a step in the right direction; however, to be most effective reforms such as Lost or Stolen must be applied statewide. A number of municipalities are currently considering resolutions demanding that the General Assembly take action.

Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Allentown, Reading, Pottsville, Harrisburg, Wilkinsburg, Lancaster, and Erie, have set examples to be emulated by other cities, and that should be followed by the Legislature. More so than any other elected official, the voice of a mayor can penetrate the haze of politics that too often clouds this critical issue.

You may be assured of my continued cooperation with the Mayors Against Illegal Guns and all matters of mutual concern.

Sincerely,

Colonel Frank E. Pawlowski  
Commissioner