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**From:** Joe Grace [mailto:info@ceasefirepa.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 23, 2009 11:31 AM  
**To:** XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
**Subject:** Standing Up and Fighting Back Against the NRA

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## CeaseFirePA

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September 23, 2009

Dear XXXXXXX,

There's only one way to confront a bully - stand up to him and speak the truth. That's what CeaseFirePA and its allies are doing across Pennsylvania in response to a smear and misinformation campaign engineered by the NRA.

### **Lancaster Mayor Confronts NRA and his Opponent**

**Lancaster Mayor Rick Gray** confronted the NRA yesterday, revealing a campaign of misinformation concocted by the gun lobby to bully and scare mayors into leaving the national coalition of Mayors Against Illegal Guns (MAIG). Mayor Gray, an early, strong member of MAIG in Pennsylvania, called out the NRA for its misinformation campaign - and called on his opponent in the November mayor's race to take a stand on lost or stolen handgun reporting to the police.

Gray held a news conference on a Lancaster street corner and spoke of a push by the National Rifle Association to pressure mayors to leave MAIG. He said he would not be bowed by the NRA, and he affirmed the mayors' group's efforts to curb illegal guns, while calling on his opponent, former mayor Charlie Smithgall, to do the same.

"If you want to talk about crime in the city, what hurts the city most is the possession and discharge of illegal guns," said Gray, nearing the end of his first four-year term. Gray said lost or stolen handgun reporting is a reform to curb trafficking of illegal guns among criminals - not to punish law-abiding gun owners. [Read the full story where Mayor Gray takes on the NRA.](#)

The same day Mayor Gray made his stand in Lancaster, **York Mayor Rick Brenner** revealed "The Truth about Mayors Against Illegal Guns" in an article published in the *York Dispatch*. Mayor Brenner defended his membership with MAIG and clarified the mission of this group of more than 100 Pennsylvania mayors dedicated to reducing gun violence within their cities. "Upholding the Second Amendment right to bear arms and apprehending those who traffic, possess, or use illegal guns are not mutually exclusive. As a mayor, it is my duty to call attention to threats to our community," wrote Brenner.

The mayor rebuked the NRA's intimidation tactics and vowed to remain a strong member of MAIG. "The coalition has never deviated from that mission, and we never will," Brenner wrote. "If this group were ever to support a policy that would violate my personal right to bear arms for any reason -- tradition, hunting or protection -- I'd be the first mayor to leave." [Read the whole story of Mayor Brenner re-affirming his stance and criticizing the NRA's big smear campaign.](#)

### **York and Easton Take Action On Lost or Stolen - Urging General Assembly To Pass Reform**

Mayor Brenner's stand follows a convincing, 4-to-1 vote last week by **York City Council** to send a strongly-written Resolution to the state legislature, urging the General Assembly to pass a statewide lost or stolen handgun reporting ordinance - now.

Similarly, the **City of Easton** in the Lehigh Valley passed its own Resolution earlier this month and sent it as well to the General Assembly, urging action on lost or stolen handgun reporting. **Easton Mayor Sal Panto** - another strong ally of CeaseFirePA and MAIG member - already received a response from State Representative Robert L. Freeman, acknowledging Easton's support for this statewide reform and re-affirming his own support for lost or stolen.

*"Gun violence is a growing problem and public health threat to citizens in our municipality, our region, and across Pennsylvania, threatening families, tearing at the fabric of neighborhoods, and reducing the appeal of our community to homeowners and businesses alike,"* the Resolution states, urging the General Assembly to follow the example set by other Pennsylvania communities by passing legislation requiring handgun owners to report lost or stolen guns to the police.

Eleven cities and towns across the Commonwealth-Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Allentown, Reading, Pottsville, Harrisburg, Wilkes-Barre, Lancaster, Erie - and now, York and Easton - have taken official action in support of lost or stolen handgun reporting. The first nine towns passed ordinances, setting an example to be emulated by other cities - and ultimately by the Legislature. The resolutions from York and Easton to the state legislature further strengthen the unified voices across the state calling for this simple, common sense reform. These cities and towns run from Philadelphia in the southeast to Erie in the northwestern corner of the Keystone State, and together represent more than two million Pennsylvanians.

The voices of Pennsylvanians calling for change and for reason in our gun laws grow louder every day. Now, they're standing up to the bully. Will you lend your voice too?

**Join the Fight on CeaseFirePA's Facebook Page!**

As a supporter of CeaseFirePA, we know you have an opinion on preventing gun violence. We invite you to join the discussion that has been sparked this week by Mayor Gray and Mayor Brenner in Lancaster and York-become a CeaseFirePA facebook fan. For frequent, quick updates on the latest movement and news in the Commonwealth, [link up with us and stay in the know.](#)

Thank you for making a difference in Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Joe Grace  
Executive Director  
CeaseFirePA

