



## Office of the Mayor

City Hall / 90 West Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-9014  
614/645-7671  
FAX 614/645-5818

April 2, 2012

Mayor Robert Baird  
PO Box 285  
Bellbrook, OH 45305

Dear Mayor Baird,

As you know, public safety is one of the most important priorities for any mayor. For this reason, I invite you to join Mayors Against Illegal Guns, a bipartisan coalition fighting for common-sense measures to reduce gun crime while respecting the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens.

The coalition launched in 2006 with just 15 members nationally. Since that time, we have grown to more than 600 members across the country and over 50 mayors across the state of Ohio. We are a diverse coalition of Democrats, Republicans and independents representing Ohio's largest cities and smallest towns. But we speak with one voice when it comes to this issue. Simply put, we must do everything we can to keep guns out of criminal hands.

More than 12,000 Americans fall victim to gun murder every year, averaging 34 lives lost every single day. In 2011, more than 50 brave law enforcement officers were shot and killed in the line of duty. The overwhelming majority of gun crimes are perpetrated by individuals who cannot legally purchase or possess weapons. But all too often they exploit loopholes in the background check system for easy access to the guns they use in crimes.

Mayors Against Illegal Guns aims to bring attention to the problem of illegal guns. We call for tougher enforcement of existing federal gun laws, and we advocate for legislation to close loopholes in our nation's gun background check system, loopholes that criminals use every day in our state to purchase guns illegally.

Please take some time to review the attached Statement of Principles. To join the coalition, please sign the Statement of Principles and return it via email to [rlroberts@columbus.gov](mailto:rlroberts@columbus.gov) or via fax to (614)-645-5818.

Also, find enclosed a background document about the coalition and a current list of member mayors. For more information about the coalition's activities, please visit our website at [www.mayorsagainstilllegalguns.org](http://www.mayorsagainstilllegalguns.org) or contact Lee Roberts in my office at (614)-645-6428. *Not here*

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to working with you toward our common goals of combating the flow of illegal guns and making our neighborhoods safer.

Sincerely,

Michael B. Coleman  
Mayor

## 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)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Mayor's Name – please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Mayor's Office Address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City, State, Zip)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Mayor's Telephone)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Mayor's Email Address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Staff Contact Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Staff Member's Telephone)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Staff Position)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Staff Email)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Mayoral Term -- MM/YYYY to MM/YYYY)

To join Mayors Against Illegal Guns, please fill in the information above and return this form to the coalition via fax at 212-312-0760. Alternatively, you can email a PDF of the signed statement to [info@mayorsagainstillegalguns.org](mailto:info@mayorsagainstillegalguns.org).