

NEWS



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Mayor Street Displays a Cadre of Confiscated Weapons and Calls on Lawmakers to Come to their Senses on Gun Laws

Philadelphia, PA – Before a sea of 1,600 confiscated guns and flanked by Police Commissioner Sylvester Johnson, Councilman Darrell L. Clarke, Councilwoman, Donna Reed Miller and Town Watch Integrated Services Director, Anthony Murphy, Philadelphia Mayor John F. Street held a press conference this evening calling for tougher gun laws and reinforcing Philadelphia's commitment to continue pushing at every level of government to achieve them.

“There are just far too many guns out there,” stated Mayor Street. “Last year, 30,000 Americans died as a result of gun violence. That’s about 80 a day. Consider for perspective that to date, there have been slightly more than 2,400 American casualties in the Iraq war. We need to shock the conscience of America to what's happening in our Country and on the streets of our cities. That's why we're here tonight with all these guns.”

Mayor Street outlined the three top priorities his Administration has been raising with the General Assembly that would help efforts to reduce the number of guns in Philadelphia.

The first is to pass legislation requiring gun owners to maintain guns in a secure lock box and immediately report lost, stolen or missing firearms to the Police. House Bill 1013 (Williams) would require gun owners to take on the affirmative responsibility of reporting a lost or stolen gun to the Commonwealth. The second priority Mayor Street is pushing for with the Commonwealth is to limit purchases of guns to one per month. House Bill 871 (Meyers) and its companion, Senate Bill 1002 (Washington), do just that. The third priority is to pass legislation that makes possession of any illegal firearm a felony and moves more gun violations to state and federal courts.

“We will never succeed in our efforts for stronger gun laws, if we do not continue to try,” stated Mayor Street. “This has nothing to do with the second amendment. We support

Councilman Clarke and Councilwoman Reed Miller and are asking for an entirely reasonable limitation that would not prevent responsible, law-abiding citizen from purchasing up to 12 handguns per year for personal protection or hobby and recreational use.”

Councilman Clarke and Councilwoman Reed Miller have generated bills calling for limits on sales to one gun per month and the development of a comprehensive gun registry on the Philadelphia level that tracks every gun in Philadelphia. Both echoed the Mayor’s comments and offered their full support.

“We have found the weapons of mass destruction,” uttered Councilman Clarke. “And they are right here in this room and on our streets. We stand behind you 100 percent. You have to register you care every year. You should also have to register your gun.”

Mayor Street also discussed the Philadelphia Police Department, the problems they face because of illegal guns and the circumstances surrounding Police Officer shootings.

“We believe we have a Police Department that is well managed and well run and we don't think there has been excessive force. These brave men and women are doing their very best under very difficult circumstances, but all of their hard work and dedicated is marginalized by the proliferation of guns. Today, the slightest indignities are resolved with firearms. It’s unfair to second guess them. If these people do not put the gun down, I expect these officers to take care of themselves. There are too many guns and not enough love.”

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