

LAURA MILLER
MAYOR



CITY OF DALLAS

MEDIA RELEASE

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Mayor Miller Joins NYC Mayor Bloomberg and Other Mayors From Around the U.S. in Unified Effort in the Fight Against Illegal Guns

Fifteen Mayors Join Together for First Ever Mayors' Summit on Illegal Guns

*Mayors Create Statement of Principles on Illegal Guns Pledging to Build a
Broader Coalition of Leaders Across the Nation*

NEW YORK CITY, NY—Dallas Mayor Laura Miller was one of fifteen mayors from around the country taking part in the first-ever Mayors' Summit on Illegal Guns hosted by New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino. The Summit, held Tuesday, April 25 in New York City at Gracie Mansion, brought the mayors together to discuss the problem of illegal guns and share strategies on how to combat it. The mayors discussed cutting-edge policing strategies, legislative opportunities and the unique initiatives being undertaken across the country on this issue.

They also created a Statement of Principles (see attached) pledging to continue the fight against illegal guns, to continue the dialogue, and to build a broader coalition of leaders across the country. The mayors also pledged to initiate joint lobbying against harmful federal legislation, begin possible companion litigation against rogue gun dealers and set a second meeting before the year's end – with the goal of enlisting up to 50 mayors from around the country. Mayors Miller, Bloomberg, and Menino were joined by Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown, Hartford Mayor Eddie Perez, Jackson Mayor Frank Melton, Jersey City Mayor Jerramiah Healy, Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett, Philadelphia Mayor John Street, Providence Mayor David Cicilline, Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels, Trenton Mayor Douglas Palmer, Tulsa Mayor Kathy Taylor, Washington, DC Mayor Anthony Williams and Yonkers Mayor Mayor Phil Amicone.

“It is important for us to develop a strategy to tackle our illegal gun problem,” said Dallas Mayor Miller. “It's a powerful message when you have many of the nation's top mayors joined together to create a statement this strong. There's not any legislature that's not interested in what these mayors have to say.”

During the Summit, the Mayor Miller was one of four mayors to speak and participate in a “best practices” forum. Mayor Miller was joined by the mayors from Seattle, Philadelphia and Milwaukee. Their hour-long presentation detailed
(more)

innovative anti-gun violence initiatives that have been developed and used in their respective cities. These presentations offered an opportunity for the mayors to exchange ideas and discuss what strategies have been successful in curbing gun violence and what combination of practices may better suit different types of cities.

Mayor Miller gave insight into “Operation Disruption” which was launched by the Dallas Police Department last summer. The mission of “Operation Disruption” is to rapidly deploy resources to different areas of the city, especially those areas known as hotspots for criminal activity, to “disrupt” the comfort level of criminal offenders. During the first six months of operation, from July to December 2005, the Unit accounted for more than 4,700 arrests, 6,500 traffic citations and the seizure of 349 firearms.

The mayors also had an opportunity to question a panel of national gun experts that included Dr. David Hemenway, an economist and professor of Health Policy at the Harvard School of Public Health, Joshua Horwitz, the Executive Director of the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence and Daniel Webster, Co-Director of the Center for Gun Policy and Research and Associate Director for Research at the Center for the Prevention of Youth Violence at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

The Summit also included a presentation from New York City Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly who spoke on specific New York City Police Department initiatives including the establishment of a Firearms Suppression Division that elevates the status of gun crime investigations to the same level as narcotics and major auto crime. Within this division the NYPD is also creating a Gun Enhancement Unit composed of detectives with expertise in this area to debrief suspects in all felony crimes involving guns, and generally to enhance these cases.

“The fact is that New York City remains a popular destination for illegal guns smuggled here by traffickers from out of state,” said Commissioner Kelly. “Anything we can do to curtail this flow at a national level will be a huge benefit, which is why this summit is very good news. The New York City Police Department alone can’t shut down the iron pipeline, nor can the police departments of the cities represented here today. We need a broad national commitment to do it. The same Federal government which asserts its supremacy in matters of interstate commerce needs to flex increased regulatory muscle when that commerce turns deadly.”

The mayors were also briefed by Corporation Counsel Michael Cardozo on the current status of New York City’s litigation against gun manufacturers. They also received a briefing on current federal legislation and attempts to limit state and local government and law enforcement agency access to critical gun trace data. Mayor Bloomberg recently testified in Washington, DC on one of these bills – HR 5005 – which, if passed, would criminalize the sharing of this data between municipalities.

Mayor Miller added “This summit was a wonderful opportunity for us to have dialog, explore what’s working and what’s not in our respective cities, and to walk away better equipped to make important public safety policies, not to mention, share in some of the expertise of the NYPD.”

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MAYORS' SUMMIT ON ILLEGAL GUNS

April 25, 2006
Gracie Mansion, New York City

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.