

NLWJC - Kagan

DPC - Box 011 - Folder 009

Crime - Gun Proposals 2000

Crime-gun proposals 2000

JOSE/EK -
Jose, let me know
if these work - BR



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

RICHARD M. DALEY
MAYOR

November 12, 1998

Maria -
Copy to Foyers, Jose Carda,
Bruce Reed.
M. Arceley
11/21/98

The Honorable Janet Reno
Attorney General of the United States
U.S. Department of Justice
10th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Reno:

On November 12, 1998, my administration filed a lawsuit on behalf of the people of the City of Chicago against the gun industry. This \$433 million suit charged that the industry has flooded Chicago with illegal guns, knowing that they will be used to murder, rob and terrorize our citizens.

The gun industry has perpetuated a myth, claiming that illegal guns are acquired illegally. According to them, gun control efforts are not a matter for the Congress, state legislatures, or the courts, but for the police. This myth has now been dispelled by an undercover Chicago Police Department investigation, the results of which were announced last Thursday.

This investigation establishes that area gun dealers routinely encourage customers to deceive federal, state and local police. "Straw" buyers regularly buy dozens of guns for street gangs. Manufacturers and retailers knowingly market and distribute to criminals in Chicago and other communities where the possession of a gun is illegal. Current state and federal law is inadequate to stem the flood of illegal guns into our communities. Changes must be made to protect our families, children and police officers.

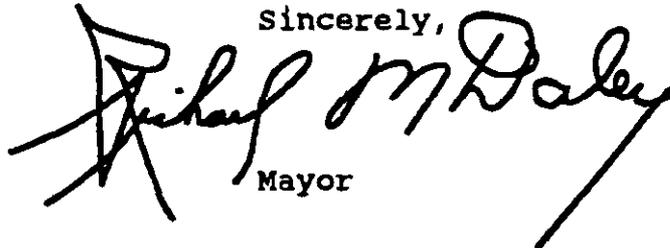
* | As a result of this investigation, I am proposing state and federal legislation to curb these abuses. The state legislation provides for state licensing of firearm dealers; a limitation of one firearm purchase per month; enhanced penalties for gunrunning and straw purchases; and civil liability for any damages resulting from the illegal possession or use of a firearm when the seller has reason to know that it will be used or possessed illegally.

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The federal legislation will provide an improved federal firearms tracing system to enable federal, state and local authorities to far more readily identify gun runners who supply criminals with firearms; require that all firearm sales be reported within one week to the United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms; forbid the purchase of multiple firearms within any 30-day period; and forbid gun dealers from making sales whenever the seller has reason to believe that the purchaser intends to use or transfer the weapon illegally.

In addition to these proposed legislative changes, the City of Chicago and Cook County have filed a civil lawsuit to hold the gun industry accountable for the costs to society resulting directly from their negligent business practices. These negligent practices constitute a public nuisance. We hold polluters accountable for poisoning our environment; we hold liquor stores accountable for serving minors. It is time to hold the gun industry accountable for its actions.

Sincerely,


Mayor