



## **NEWS FROM THE MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS**

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### **Major Cities Chiefs Release Firearms Violence Policy**

**WASHINGTON, June 6, 2018** – On behalf of the largest law enforcement agencies in the Nation, Major Cities Chiefs Association President and Montgomery County Police Chief J. Thomas Manger issued a statement today announcing the release of an updated and expanded Firearms Violence Policy. Chiefs of Police gathered in Nashville, TN, and considered measures to prevent gun violence seen in recent cases in Florida, Texas, and throughout the Nation.

Adopted by a vote of Chiefs at their meeting, the new policy statement includes calling on Congress to:

- Adopt a Universal Background Check for all gun sales and transfers;
- Expand screening for prohibited buyers to include persons with violent mental health history;
- Seek “Red Flag” measures to prevent guns from reaching persons who threaten violence and murder; and
- Urge legislation that permits court orders barring gun purchases in domestic violence cases.

The new policy reflects lessons learned from recent tragic gun murders and pleas of both parents and youth from Marjory Stoneman High School, in Parkland, Florida, who attended the Chiefs’ conference.

Chief Manger said: “As first responders, we have seen the toll that firearms violence takes on our communities and it is time that we as a Nation take the necessary steps to reduce the risk of such tragic events. Reform to this system is overdue and we must all play a role in keeping firearms off our streets and out of our schools.”

Houston Police Chief Art Acevedo said: “The Major Cities Chiefs Association joins with those we are sworn to protect in our commitment to reform that will reduce the threat of gun violence in America, and we will use the strength of our nationwide membership to move these important proposals forward.”

Miami-Dade Police Director Juan Perez said: “As representatives of the largest urban areas in the Nation, where gun violence takes the highest toll, we have seen first-hand the dangers that firearms pose to our cities and urge Congress to do everything it can to eliminate the incalculable risk that these firearms pose to our entire society.”

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## **Firearms Violence Policy**

Adopted by Membership Vote on May 30, 2018

*The Major Cities Chiefs Association has been a strong advocate for sensible gun policy for many years and has taken these positions on key issues.*

### **Legislative Positions**

- Adopt Universal Background Checks for all gun sales and close both gun show and internet loopholes
- Strengthen NICS definitions of prohibited purchasers to cover all appropriate domestic violence cases, with strict judicial procedures for appeal and reinstatement
- Support “Red Flag” legislation and regulations to preclude gun purchases by mentally disturbed persons with histories of violent behavior
- Ban “bump-stock” devices that replicate fully automatic weapons fire
- Maintain ATF regulations and restrictions regarding silencers
- Reinstate the assault weapons ban and encourage stiffer penalties for illegal guns
- Ban high capacity magazines (10+ rounds)
- Ban internet ammo sales, require in-person transactions, records of sales and licensing of ammo vendors
- Oppose legislation that would require States to recognize any and all concealed carry permits
- Oppose legislation that further erodes ATF authority
- Prevent known terrorists from purchasing firearms and/or ammunition

### **Policy Statements**

- Establish a strong system for universal background checks to cover all firearms purchases, with no exceptions.
- Strengthen the national criminal instant background check system. The background check system does not have complete data and measures should be undertaken to ensure comprehensive reporting. Mental health information, for example, is inadequate, inconsistent and incomplete. The NICS system must be improved.
- Encourage aggressive federal prosecution of violent offenders using guns. Conviction in Federal Court generally results in stronger sanctions, removes the offenders from the streets and serves as a deterrent.
- Encourage mandatory reporting of all purchases, transfers and stolen firearms. This measure would assist law enforcement agencies with identification, criminal investigations and recovery of stolen firearms.
- Establish harsher penalties and aggressively prosecute straw purchasers, who are responsible for putting a substantial number of guns used in criminal acts. More aggressive prosecution with strong penalties would hold them accountable and act as a deterrent.
- Court orders can and should be used to prevent purchase of firearms by persons who pose a threat to public safety.
- Support and strengthen the authorities of ATF, rather than to restrict and handicap enforcement of gun laws.

Major Cities Chiefs is a professional association of Chiefs and Sheriffs representing the largest cities in the United States and Canada. Membership is comprised of Chiefs and Sheriffs of the sixty-nine largest law enforcement agencies in the United States and ten largest in Canada. The Chiefs serve more than 82 million people.