



“Moving from Complaint to Possibility...from Planning to Implementation”

Gun Violence Reduction

A civil society is based on citizens and lawful authorities working cooperatively to reduce the violence in our neighborhoods. The irresponsible use of guns, especially handguns, is to blame for a great percentage of the violence and killing that occur in our neighborhoods. In addition, guns are frequently involved in accidental injuries. The following actions will help to reduce the prevalence of gun related accidental injuries and violence:

Role of Families in Gun Safety:

- **Provide** age appropriate gun safety instruction to all members of the household. Emphasize that guns should be pointed only in a safe direction, that the trigger should not be touched, and confirm that it is not loaded. Teach respect for the destructive potential of guns.
- **Secure** all firearms in the home to reduce the risk of accidents, theft, or unauthorized use. Keep guns and ammunition locked away in separate locations when not in use. Store guns unloaded and use a gunlock. Any defensive gun kept to protect a family must be stored unloaded and secured with a gun lock against unauthorized or unlawful use. Do not allow children or visitors to have unsupervised access to guns stored in the family home. Plan carefully to avoid a tragedy.
- **Discuss** the difference between real gun violence and the glorified violence in video games and movies with children and other household members. Be a good role model about gun safety and responsible behavior.
- **Support** community and legislative efforts to reduce the presence of guns and the levels of gun violence in our neighborhoods. Contact elected officials in person, write letters, send emails, sign petitions, and attend community events to voice one's opinions. Vote for candidates who support efforts to stop irresponsible gun ownership to make our neighborhoods safer from gun violence.

Law Enforcement & Criminal Justice System:

- **Investigate** thoroughly all gun-related incidents including reports of people brandishing guns and complaints of shots fired. This action should be applied in a fair and uniform fashion throughout all neighborhoods.
- **Prosecute** all gun-related crimes and seek maximum sentencing when guns are used in the commission of illegal activities.
- **Track** the source of guns, including assault weapons, used in crimes and prosecute the criminals who illegally manufacture, distribute, and/or sell these weapons. Gunsmiths who illegally modify firearms should also be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Legislative Bodies:

- **Pass** laws to reduce the unchecked flow of handguns into our communities including reasonable limits on the number of guns that can be purchased within a specified timeframe, requirements for reporting lost or stolen guns, and laws regarding the safe storage of guns and ammunition. Pass state and national laws, and provide funds for enforcement efforts, which restrict access to high capacity, paramilitary weapons.
- **Strengthen** the systems and enforce the laws used to identify persons who are not legally authorized to purchase guns. Ensure that individuals who have lost the right to possess guns are entered into the national computerized system. Ban all gun sales or transfers that do not involve a background check through this system.
- **Redirect** a portion of the excise tax collected on gun and ammunition sales toward gun safety education programs targeting urban populations. Use these monies to fund advertising campaigns addressing responsible gun ownership and gun security initiatives.