



MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

July 06, 2021

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The Honorable Donald M. Payne, Jr.
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Payne, Jr.,

I'm writing on behalf of the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA) to register our support for H.R. 3159, the *Safer Neighborhoods Gun Buyback Act of 2021*. The MCCA is a professional organization of police executives representing the largest cities in the United States and Canada.

The wave of violent crime currently plaguing communities throughout the United States has included a sharp uptick in gun violence. Nearly every MCCA member has reported increases in violent crimes involving firearms, many of which involve multiple shooters and multiple victims, and officers continue to recover an unprecedented number of guns.

Local law enforcement agencies have deployed a variety of innovative strategies, such as gun buyback programs, to reduce gun violence in our communities. These programs provide another mechanism to get guns off the street, and several MCCA members have found gun buyback programs to be successful. The grants authorized in H.R. 3159 will create a strong incentive and ensure local law enforcement agencies have the resources they need to implement gun buyback programs. Furthermore, the bill will help law enforcement identify crime guns. For example, guns turned in as part of a grant-funded gun buyback program would need to be screened against law enforcement databases.

Thank you for your continued commitment to ensuring local law enforcement has the tools it needs to address the ongoing rise in gun violence. The MCCA looks forward to working with you to advance this important piece of legislation. Please do not hesitate to contact me if the MCCA can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Chief Art Acevedo
Chief, Miami Police Department
President, Major Cities Chiefs Association