



CITY OF JERSEY CITY

JERRAMIAH T. HEALY, MAYOR

For Immediate Release
June 11, 2007

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HEALY WINS AGAIN!

Battle Against Illegal Guns Gains Steam, and Assembly

JERSEY CITY-Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy announced the successful crossing of a significant hurdle with yesterday's passage of a State Assembly Bill limiting gun purchases to one per month.

In an overwhelming decision, the assembly passed the "1-Gun a Month Bill", A3511, by a 51-25 with 4 abstentions, setting the stage for State Senate approval and a new law in the near future.

"Obviously this is a big day and it's clear that sitting on our thumbs and complaining about guns in the street won't solve the problem. Locally we've been forced to do what the federal government has neglected to do, solve the federally nurtured plague of gun violence in our communities," Healy said.

The 1-gun-a-month bill was born out of Healy's administration, which has already made it a crime in Jersey City if a lost or stolen handgun is not reported to police within 48 hours of being unaccounted for.

The effort to make "1-gun a month" a local law was successfully challenged by a gun shop owner who judges opined that it may have been business discriminatory in the municipality. However, with a future statewide law of 1-gun per month, it would be a fair rule for all legitimate gun dealers across the board throughout New Jersey.

"We are making tremendous headway in our efforts," Healy said. "Just last week the Tiahrt Amendment was pulled by a U.S. Senate Appropriations

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Committee, which for too many years already has stood in the way of local law enforcement of using gun trace information gathered by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms(ATF) to assist in local investigations. But there is much more to be done.”

Healy applauded the efforts of State representatives, particularly Assemblywoman Joan Quigley (Dist.32) for pressing the battle in Trenton before legislators where Healy made his plea for the legislation in February. Later this month, another Healy initiative, the ban of junk guns (Saturday Night Specials) will go before the City Council.

In April Healy hosted a gun summit with mayor’s from the nation’s biggest cities, including New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Boston Mayor Thomas N. Menino and Newark’s Cory Booker, as part of the Mayors Against Illegal Guns initiative. Healy, one of the 15 original members of the movement chaired by Bloomberg and Menino, has realized the coalition’s growth to more than 250 mayors nationwide.

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