

# CITY OF JERSEY CITY

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## ***Mayor Healy Denounces Congressional Setback in Tracing Illegal Guns Used in Crimes*** ***Mayor pledges to continue fight to remove restrictions on tracing illegal guns and to stop the flow of illegal guns into Jersey City***

JERSEY CITY – **Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy** announced today his disappointment that the United States House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee failed to strike language restricting gun data, commonly known as the Tiahrt Amendment, from the Appropriations Bill.

The Tiahrt Amendment restricts Congress, the public and local law enforcement officials from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms' national database that controls the tracking of firearms used in crimes.

“New Jersey and Jersey City have strict gun laws,” **Mayor Healy** said. “But without the ability to see where the illegal guns used to commit crimes in Jersey City are purchased, we are at a major disadvantage, and the elected officials who support such restrictions are doing the public a grave disservice.”

**Mayor Healy**, who is a founding member of Mayors Against Illegal Guns and who hosted the group for a rally at City Hall, has received confirmation from the New Jersey delegation to the U.S. Senate that they plan to introduce legislation to lift this ban and restore broad access to vital statistics on the origins of guns used in crimes.

“Senator Menendez and Senator Lautenberg have been our allies in this fight against illegal guns and particularly in having the Tiahrt Amendment stricken from the Appropriations Bill,” **Mayor Healy** said. “Right now, and for the past several years, the United States Congress has kept cities like Jersey City at a strong disadvantage from fighting gun crimes.

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While the battle against the tracking of illegal guns faced a minor setback in Congress yesterday, **Mayor Healy** won on the state level with the passage of Assembly Bill A3511, “1-Gun a Month Bill,” that restricts individuals to purchasing only one hand gun per month. The bill passed the Assembly in June and the Mayor is confident it will receive Senate approval when the Legislature reconvenes Tuesday.

“Taking illegal guns off the street is one of the most effective ways to reduce violent crime,” **Mayor Healy** said. “Our own crime statistics show that when the Jersey City Police Department removes illegal guns from the streets, the number of violent incidents drops.”

“Illegal guns are the tools of violent criminals and it is our mission and the duty of all governments at every level to take away these tools,” **Mayor Healy** added.

**All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy at 201-547-4836 or 201-686-7244.///**

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