

Ladies and Gentlemen of this esteemed Committee....

My name is Michael Muldrow, and let me start by saying how proud and humble I am to be here today.

I am Commissioner with the York City Police.

A 23yr Law Enforcement veteran, a long time school safety expert, and advocate for the community I Love.

I come to you today, as your neighbor from (just) down (83), in York PA; a place much like this one, like many of the communities you all hail from or represent.

So many of those communities all facing and fighting an issue that continues to spread like a wildfire through our neighborhoods, or a cancer through the lives of our kids...

The issue (or should I say Health Crisis) that is Gun Violence!

Over the years I've felt the affects of that gun violence, first hand:

ON THE STREETS,

having myself served in street crime units (chasing armed individuals), on one such occasion surviving being shot at by a person not permitted to lawfully carry or possess a firearm...

IN THE SCHOOLS,

during one such incident being forced to race the clock to find a student in the building (illegally) armed with a loaded gun, and ANOTHER where we responded to a teenage active shooter that menaced one of our hometown football games, and all the traumatic fallout that came following both)...

AND IN MY PERSONAL LIFE,

As our family still deals with the pain, grief and absence of our younger brother who was gunned down during a "fist fight" at a local park.

That's why this is ALL so personal and passionate for me... I've given my voice, my service, my life and more to combating Gun Violence in our Community.

And because of that,

I'm here in front of you representing both Law Enforcement across this state, and communities like ours...

To make a plea for the additional tools and resources we need to put out that fire and fight for the lives of our kids.

To do this, we have to start by being realistic and honest about how the majority of these guns are making it on the streets, into the hands of the wrong people....

Look, for the most part, in communities like ours, it's not what we see on TV, in movies, and video games: there's no foreign gang, in big black vans, pulling up on street corners, selling loads of guns to our kids and community.

Most of the illegal guns hitting our streets (antecedently, 75% or more), start out as lost, or stolen from lawful owners, or as "Straw Purchases": guns that are purchased legally then resold on the street, and (generally) reported stolen after they've been used in crimes.

With that said, one of the biggest and best things we can do to help curb, or deal with this problem, and track trends, is "cutting off the supply"...

Doing this by:

- *vigourously starting to investigate and prosecute the often ignored "Straw Purchase" cases...*

- **Noting: as we discovered in 2021, during a joint effort we spearheaded with the ATF, where in just short of two months, our "Straw Purchase" investigation led to the arrest of 18 people, and 53 illegal firearms taken of the street (in our community alone)*

- *and doing what we can do (what you can do) to mandate "responsible gun ownership", holding people accountable when and if they don't keep track of their weapons, and properly report issues of Custody.*

*I'm a personal gun owner,
in Law Enforcement most of us are.*

*But at the end of the day,
A lot of this comes down to "responsible ownership".*

And part of Responsible Gun Ownership needs to involve maintaining proper "Chain of Custody" (of your weapons)...

-A part of responsible gun ownership, needs to include the reporting of lost or stolen firearms

-And as part of any legislation surrounding "responsible ownership", we need to also look at establishing "reasonable time periods for reporting" said lost or stolen firearms, or any change in ownership.

We recommend

requiring that Lost or stolen firearms be reported or notified to the area department, immediately upon discovery..... not as soon as individuals suspect, hear, or fear those weapons were or will be used in a crime.

**Note:*

In New Jersey, Weapon owners (who fail to report their weapons, lost or stolen properly) are also subject to civil penalties (in addition to criminal)

*So in conclusion,
Regardless what side of the isle you fall on...*

We believe people have a right to defend themselves and their homes.

We aren't looking or advocating to take guns (of any kind) out of the hands of lawful owners; we're merely asking that you do what you can, to help people to practice "responsible ownership", and with it help KEEP guns out of the hands of individuals that shouldn't have them.

The individuals that are making bad decisions, and robbing our communities, our families, and our kids, of hope, opportunity, and a sense of safety in their lives.

Thank you for your time.