



DEPARTMENT OF POLICE SERVICES
255 EAST MAIN STREET
WATERBURY, CONNECTICUT 06702



Fernando Spagnolo
Chief of Police

John D. Napiello
Deputy Chief of Police

Daniel R. Ferrucci
Deputy Chief of Police

September 9, 2022

Dear U.S. Senator Committee on the Judiciary,

Attached are the responses to the questions submitted to me August 26, 2022 from the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary Hearing entitled "Constitutional and Common Sense steps in reducing gun violence".

Respectfully Submitted,

Fernando C. Spagnolo, Chief of Police



DEPARTMENT OF POLICE SERVICES
255 EAST MAIN STREET
WATERBURY, CONNECTICUT 06702



Fernando Spagnolo
Chief of Police

John D. Napiello
Deputy Chief of Police

Daniel R. Ferrucci
Deputy Chief of Police

Response to Senator Dick Durbin:

Yes, I think that security measures would be beneficial in deterring burglaries from gun stores. Those measures could include interior and exterior surveillance cameras, audible burglar alarms, locking mechanisms for gun storage areas, increase exterior lighting, and ensure environmental analysis of the property is completed to ensure the environmental is sufficient to prevent criminal activity.

Response to Senator Patrick Leahy:

Guns purchased by straw purchasers can end up in the hands of a prohibited person, there is no accountability or tracking mechanism once the gun is purchased by a legal purchaser. In our jurisdiction we have seen an exponential increase in gun permit requests (a gun permit is required in the State of CT to purchase a firearm) and we have seen on many occasions those lawfully purchased guns winding up in the hands of a prohibited person winding up in an act of violence.

Regulation of ghost guns, requiring ghost gun manufacturers serialize those guns purchased and shipped, disassembled or needing partial manufacturing for completion.

Working in collaboration with the ATF, State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies gun crime investigations rely on many different avenues of pursuit. Once such being, tracing gun purchasing history, and gun ballistic information. Local state and federal law enforcement authorities having access to state of the art electronic purchase tracing information and ballistic history information will further investigations and make these investigations more efficient. Furthermore, this information at hand may link weapons in other jurisdictions and/or violent crime investigations providing more detail and potential closure to victims of those crimes.

Response to Senator Charles E. Grassley:

Average wait time in Waterbury is 12 weeks.

I don't agree that fees should be waived. We have seen an over 1200% increase in pistol permit applications over the course of the last 24 months in Waterbury, which leads me to believe that the fees charged are suitable for the members of the Waterbury community.

The authorization for the fees comes from Federal, State and local statutes and ordinances. Total fees for a



DEPARTMENT OF POLICE SERVICES
255 EAST MAIN STREET
WATERBURY, CONNECTICUT 06702



Fernando Spagnolo
Chief of Police

John D. Napiello
Deputy Chief of Police

Daniel R. Ferrucci
Deputy Chief of Police

permit in Waterbury are \$258.25. Reference letters are not required by statute, authority comes from State Board of Firearm Examiners for me to ask for these letters as part of the background investigation of a pistol permit applicant to assess suitability.

Violent crime was down 12% in fiscal year 2019 and up 14% in fiscal year 2020-2021 (July 1-June 30). Reducing the amount of illegal guns that fall into the hands of prohibited persons reduce the amount of violence that occurs in our City. We do not operate in a silo and neighboring states with lesser restrictive gun laws are an open source for prohibited persons to obtain guns and oftentimes use those guns to commit violent acts.

I think there are many factors as to why there has been a significant increase in pistol permits.

Average response time is approximately 4 minutes.

Having a fully trained police force, is one component of it. Holding violent, repeat offenders accountable whether it be through incarceration or community release programs is paramount to keeping the community safe, having a fully staffed and funded judicial system is paramount to keeping a community safe, having a fully staffed and funded violence reduction post incarceration release program is another component.

Gun control measures are meant to control exactly their definition—guns, not people. Gun control is one component of keeping guns out of the hands of prohibited persons and reducing violence in our communities across the country. I don't believe gun control is discriminatory.

Response to Senator Lindsey Graham:

Yes, Yes, and Yes. As the Chief of Police, I perceive this as a danger to the community, handguns end up in the hands of prohibited persons and often used in acts of violence.

Frequently we learn through investigations that guns used in acts of violence in our City, are often stolen or obtained through illegal means.

I believe mandatory minimum sentencing for gun crimes associated with acts of violence would be a deterrent to committing those crimes.