



NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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CHUCK CANTERBURY
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

JAMES O. PASCO, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

15 January 2013

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
Vice President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

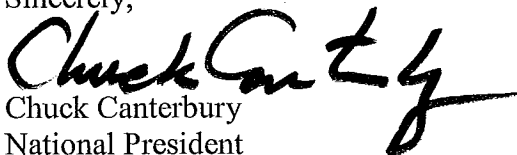
Dear Mr. Vice President,

I am writing on behalf of the National Fraternal Order of Police, the oldest and largest police organization in the United States, to urge you to consider improving the resources available to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) as you examine ways to reduce gun violence in this country. As you know from our previous conversations, the FOP feels a strong affinity towards ATF because of their "can-do" attitude in providing invaluable assistance to State and local law enforcement officers and agencies engaged in the ongoing battle against the violent criminal misuse of firearms. Now, in view of the horrible tragedies which occurred in Newtown and Columbine and, candidly, which happen on some scale every day in big and small municipalities across the country, many ideas are being offered with a view to curbing the violence and protecting our citizens. We agree that action needs to be taken-- and taken now.

We strongly believe, as we stated in the previous meeting of your Task Force, that the most logical starting point is to ensure that ATF is provided with the leadership resources and manpower necessary to enforce the laws already on the books. By doing so, we will ensure that we have a firm foundation from which to launch additional initiatives, many of which you are already considering, to make our nation safer. Among those initiatives, we believe that steps such as expanding background checks and better access to mental health records are critical to a more effective system for keeping guns out of the wrong hands. We also believe that a specific penalty for illegal trafficking in firearms should be incorporated into the Gun Control Act of 1968.

On behalf of the more than 330,000 member of the Fraternal Order of Police, I ask for your serious consideration of our suggestions and thank you for your constant willingness to work with us on these issues. If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me or Executive Director Jim Pasco in my Washington office.

Sincerely,


Chuck Canterbury
National President

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