



The United States Conference of Mayors

1620 Eye Street, N.W. • Washington, D.C. 20006
Phone (202) 293-7330 • Fax (202) 293-2352
E-mail: info@usmayors.org URL: usmayors.org

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Contact: Elena Temple
202-861-6719/etemple@usmayors.org
Carlos Vogel
202-861-6708/cvogel@usmayors.org

STATEMENT OF THE U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS PRESIDENT MIAMI MAYOR MANNY DIAZ ON SUPREME COURT RULING IN DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA et al. v. HELLER

Washington, D.C. – “The Supreme Court’s decision today in the Heller case removes a potent weapon from the arsenal of mayors who must confront gun violence every day on the streets of their cities.

“The U.S. Conference of Mayors’ position on cities’ rights to regulate firearms is reflected in Justice John Paul Stevens’ dissenting opinion in today’s ruling. ‘The majority,’ he said, ‘would have us believe that over 200 years ago, the Framers made a choice to limit the tools available to elected officials wishing to regulate civilian uses of weapons....I could not possibly conclude that the Framers made such a choice.’

“For too many of our cities, the financial costs of gun violence have been staggering; the human costs cannot be measured. Mayors firmly believe that cities must have the flexibility to regulate guns to protect against loss of life, threats to public safety and wellbeing, and the killing of police officers. We do not believe that the Second Amendment limits options available to cities to reduce gun violence, and are deeply disappointed in the Court’s decision which does limit those options.”

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The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of cities with populations of 30,000 or more. There are 1,139 such cities in the country today. Each city is represented in the Conference by its chief elected official, the mayor. The primary roles of the Conference of Mayors are to promote the development of effective national urban/suburban policy; strengthen federal-city relationships; ensure that federal policy meets urban needs; provide mayors with leadership and management tools; and create a forum in which mayors can share ideas and information. More information about the Conference is available at usmayors.org.