



# CITY OF JERSEY CITY

JERRAMIAH T. HEALY, MAYOR

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## **WAR ON ILLEGAL GUNS BREAKTHROUGH** **Mayors' trench battle on illegal gun sources gets results**

**JERSEY CITY** - Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy announced a major breakthrough for communities across the country in the battle against illegal handguns after a controversial amendment that banned law enforcement access from a national database tracking firearms was shot down by the a U.S Senate Appropriations Committee.

Healy, one of the original 15 Mayors to sign on to New York Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg's coalition, Mayors Against Illegal Guns, hosted a news conference in mid-April at City Hall in Jersey City that targeted the problematic Tiahrt Amendment, named for its author and sponsor Congressman Todd Tiahrt, Rep-Kansas.

Then, Healy was joined by Bloomberg, Newark Mayor Cory Booker and Boston Mayor Thomas N. Menino, amongst other elected representatives, to bash the amendment. Apparently their efforts have resonated in Washington DC.

Yesterday Senator Barbara A. Mikulski, (D-Maryland) the Chair of the Senate Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Subcommittee issued a statement (<http://mikulski.senate.gov/record.cfm?id=275669>) saying that she will remove the Tiahrt language from the Senate version of the bill.

“This has to be viewed as a major breakthrough for big cities and the Mayor's coalition efforts to track and identify the sources of this scourge of illegal weapons that are destroying communities across the country,” Healy said. “We've done so much on a local level to combat these guns, but the origin of the problem is at the federal level. And the defeat of this amendment takes the fight to the proper battleground of the issue.”

The Tiahrt Amendment is called an appropriations “rider” that restricts cities access to, and the use of, trace data compiled by the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and

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Firearms. These amendments have increased in their restrictive language significantly every year since 2003.

The current (FY 2006) Tiahrt amendment seeks to:

- Prevent ATF from publishing reports that use trace data to analyze the flow of crime guns nationally.
- Limit local government's access to ATF trace data.
- Prevent law enforcement from accessing trace data outside its geographic jurisdiction.
- Generally prevent law enforcement agencies from sharing trace data with one another.
- Prevent trace data from being used as evidence in any state license revocation, civil lawsuit, or other administrative proceeding unless filed by ATF.

“Law enforcement agencies work hard every day to prevent crime and keep our neighborhoods safe. I am committed to giving them the tools they need to clean up the streets, protect our families, and fight the crime that is destroying neighborhoods and ruining dreams,” said Senator Mikulski in her release. “America’s enforcement agencies work around the clock to keep this country safe. It is time to remove this provision to help bring corrupt gun dealers to justice.”

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