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## Senate of Pennsylvania

### COMMITTEES

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES,  
DEMOCRATIC CHAIR  
APPROPRIATIONS  
FINANCE  
JUDICIARY  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS  
LEGISLATIVE FINANCE  
& BUDGET COMMITTEE  
POLICY

January 20, 2022

Mayor Jim Kenney  
City Hall, Office 215  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Re: Gun Violence in Philadelphia

Dear Mayor Kenney:

As you know, gun violence continues to plague Philadelphia at a sustained alarming rate. While other big cities like Boston, St. Louis, and Miami saw a drop in gun violence in 2021, Philadelphia deaths increased. We are headed in the wrong direction and need a change.

The Road Map to Safer Communities has the wrong set of directions. Poverty, racism, and the flow of guns into big cities did not stop many of them from reducing gun violence. We can't wait to end poverty, racism, and change in Harrisburg to do what other cities are doing successfully to save lives. Neither can we only rely on law enforcement to arrest and prosecute shooters.

Philadelphia must take the following immediate actions to change directions:

First, to address coordination of efforts, you must create and convene a decision-making Gun Violence Committee that meets weekly. Members of the committee must include the Philadelphia Police Commissioner, Philadelphia District Attorney, Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office, U.S. Attorney's Office, the Philadelphia Departments of Behavioral Health and Intellectual Disability Services and Department of Human Services, the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, and Philadelphia Works.

Second, in the neighborhoods with the highest level of gun violence, take the following five actions:

- Create a "See Something, Say Something" media campaign to promote reporting of crime.
- Hire people in the neighborhoods to clean up blocks.

- Direct counseling, behavioral health, and social services to affected families and youth.
- Direct jobs and job training to affected youth in cooperation with employers and training programs.
- Hire and provide grants to proven gun violence interrupters to engage likely shooters.

My hope is that these actions can be taken immediately. Lives are at stake; the time is now.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name 'Art Haywood'. The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping 'M' shape.

Art Haywood  
State Senator – Pennsylvania's 4th Senatorial District  
Philadelphia & Montgomery Counties