

Do Not Stand Idly By

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SENATOR SCHUMER, RELIGIOUS LEADERS CALL ON FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, GUN MANUFACTURERS TO TAKE ACTION TO MAKE GUNS SAFER

NEWS CONFERENCE FRIDAY AT 1:30 PM, TOWN & VILLAGE SYNAGOGUE, 334 E. 14 ST., NYC

On Friday in New York City, more than 100 religious and civic leaders of the Metro Industrial Areas Foundation (Metro IAF) faith and citizens' organizing network will join Senator Chuck Schumer to call on the federal government to use its power, as the nation's largest gun purchaser, to push gun manufacturers to take responsibility for curbing gun deaths in America. Sen. Schumer and Metro IAF will describe what federal agencies can do – without waiting for Congress – to encourage “smart-gun” technology and responsible gun sales by manufacturers.

“As the murder of Officer Randolph Holder in East Harlem shows, New York City, like the rest of America, is awash in illegal guns,” said Reverend Getulio Cruz, pastor of Monte Sion Christian Church and a leader in Metro IAF. “It’s time for the leading gun manufacturers to sever ties with the nation’s most irresponsible gun dealers. And it’s time for the federal agencies that buy guns from those manufacturers to use their clout in the marketplace to demand that they do so.”

Metro IAF has persuaded law enforcement leaders and public officials from 80 jurisdictions across the U.S. to push manufacturers to make safety a higher priority. “With Senator Schumer’s help, we intend to get the federal government to play a leading role in this effort,” Rev. Cruz said.

Senator Schumer will call on federal agencies to follow the example of the bi-partisan group of police chiefs, sheriffs, mayors, county executives, and governors organized by Metro IAF by taking two sets of concrete actions: 1) Require bidders on federal gun contracts to provide substantive answers to government queries about their distribution practices and safety technologies, and begin measuring their performance in these areas. 2) Expand research and development on “smart guns” and other safety technologies and explore the law enforcement and military applications of these technologies

“Senator Chuck Schumer has been a leader on guns throughout his career,” said Rabbi Larry Sebert, Senior Rabbi at Town and Village Synagogue. “As well as anyone in America, he knows the limits of what Congress can and will do. He knows, like all of us do, that gun sanity can’t wait for Congress. And he knows that the largest gun buyer in America certainly has a powerful voice in the firearms marketplace.”

Tomorrow’s event will begin promptly at 1:30 and end by 2:30.

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