

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sunday, August 5, 2001

Contact: John Melia (718) 590-3544

Corey Bearak (718) 537-3386/ (917) 513-5097 (cell)

**BOROUGH PRESIDENT FERRER: ENOUGH ALREADY;
LET'S JUST PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE**

Borough President Fernando Ferrer today said the recent spate of random shootings should speed support for his plan to halt gun violence. Joined by leaders of the Million Moms movement, including Joan Gold of its Queens Chapter, Ferrer said federal, state and local governments must curtail the availability of guns by working together.

Ferrer said, "While I applaud all past efforts, including last summer's state gun control laws, the recent spate of gun violence and its random victims demand immediate action toward reducing gun violence. That's why I have proposed a nine-point comprehensive plan to address this issue. I had hoped last summer's state action and the advocacy of groups such as the Million Moms would prod needed federal actions and make City Hall and the Council embrace this initiative. Since I first testified on my plan before the City Council, the only progress seen is to pursue the lawsuit that I had encouraged in testimony. We need to do more. We must employ all law enforcement agencies.

"I twice testified before the City Council that New York City needs a strategic plan to make our City safer from gun violence. The lawsuit, an initiative of Attorney General Eliot Spitzer, and the new state legislation, all represent elements of a strategy to force change at the federal level. We still need a *national standard* for handgun ownership. But let's not stop there. Let's do what's needed at home and in Washington. Let's commit to stopping gun violence. That's why, in addition to the state measures and the lawsuit against gunmakers, I renew my call on City Hall to implement my entire nine point gun safety plan."

The Fernando Ferrer nine point plan to address gun violence:

- 1) Deploy cops appropriately to take guns off the street and prevent illegal guns from finding their way here. With proper training and supervision, this could be done without violating anyone's civil liberties.**
- 2) Advocate the strengthened "Christopher's Law" requirement for handgun safety locks on all firearms at the federal level.**
- 3) Establish gun safety zones around libraries, youth and daycare centers and public buildings, in addition to the zones set around schools.**
- 4) Require reporting -- in the Mayor's Management Report -- on gun safety and enforcement measures.**
- 5) National photo licensing and safety testing for handgun buyers.**
- 6) National registration of all handguns.**
- 7) More gun case prosecutions by the U.S Attorneys.**
- 8) Prosecute gun cases under federal law by empowering Assistant District Attorneys, using special designation by U.S. Attorneys, as federal prosecutors.**
- 9) Initiate and pursue lawsuits against gunmakers.**

**For information, please contact the Office of Borough President Fernando Ferrer
Attn: Legislative Counsel Corey Bearak at (718) 537-3386
www.bpferrer.org • info@bpferrer.org**