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2ND ANNIVERSARY OF BINGHAMTON MASSACRE: OFFICIALS CALL ON CONGRESS TO PASS BAN ON LARGE CAPACITY AMMUNITION MAGAZINES

*Mayor, DA and Police Chief mourn victims, join momentum of law enforcement
calling on Congress to protect the public*

*Shirley DeLucia, hero/victim who called 911 after being shot,
speaks out for the first time in two years*

BINGHAMTON, NY-On the second anniversary of the horrific shooting which left 14 dead and 4 wounded, Mayor Matthew Ryan, Broome County DA Gerald Mollen and Binghamton Police Chief Joseph Zikuski called on Congress to pass the ban on large capacity ammunition magazines. The shooting occurred on April 3rd, 2009 at the American Civic Association where a gunman used a 30-round magazine to help fire 99 shots. Police were able to respond in record time thanks to the ingenuity and heroism of the American Civic Association's receptionist, Shirley DeLucia. After being shot, Mrs. DeLucia, then 61, played dead and called 911 from underneath her desk.

"As a survivor of the horrific shooting in Binghamton, it's clear to me that the cycle of senseless gun violence will repeat itself without a federal ban on large capacity ammunition magazines. We need to protect the public from these weapons, which serve only to inflict as much carnage as possible. Lives were lost *needlessly* in Binghamton two years ago, and now again in Tucson. How many mass shootings will it take for Congress to protect us? The horror of that day haunts me through flashbacks, nightmares, and lasting physical effects. I live with it every day and I'll have to live with it for the rest of my life, but if there's one thing I can do to prevent future violence it's to express my fervent support for this common sense measure," said Shirley DeLucia.

Large capacity ammunition magazines were made illegal as part of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, commonly known as the federal assault weapons ban, but Congress failed to renew the ban when it expired in 2004. A large capacity ammunition magazine was used to carry out the recent shooting in Tucson, allowing the gunman to fire more than 30 bullets in 15 seconds.

“Two years ago we came together as a community, when an individual shot and killed 13 of our citizens, and then turned the gun on himself,” said Mayor Matthew Ryan. “We began a painful healing process following the incident, and part of this effort includes making our streets safer. As I’ve said before, we can’t fight the flow of illegal guns alone. We need our partners in Congress to pass the ban on large capacity ammunition magazines to help keep us all safe.”

“As law enforcement officials, we need not only to protect the public from criminals with large capacity killing machines, but to *prevent* them from getting their hands on them in the first place,” said Broome County District Attorney Gerald Mollen. “The best way to do that is for Congress to pass common sense, comprehensive, federal restrictions to keep us safe.”

“This tragedy has made clear that we need a federal ban on large capacity ammunition magazines to protect the public and give cops the advantage we need over criminals. Law enforcement officers shouldn’t have to confront that much firepower on the street, it’s not fair. Common sense restrictions can help us do our jobs and keep our community safe,” said Chief Joseph Zikuski.

Since 2004, lethal large capacity ammunition magazines have been used in every mass shooting in the United States. Examples include: 2007 Virginia Tech: 33 dead, 17 wounded, 15-round magazines, hundreds of shots fired; 2009 Binghamton, NY: 14 dead, 4 wounded, 30-round magazine, 99 rounds fired; 2010 Hartford Beer Distributor, CT: 9 dead, 2 wounded, 17-round magazines.

“It should not take another massacre to motivate Congress to do the right thing. The growing momentum of support from law enforcement across the country should send a clear and unassailable message: this isn’t about Republicans or Democrats, it’s about protecting cops and keeping the public safe,” said Richard Aborn, President of the Citizens Crime Commission of New York City, and the former President of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence (1993-1996).

“It has been two years since the tragic shooting in Binghamton and nothing has been done in Congress to prevent future mass shootings. New Yorkers and law enforcement are refusing to accept these mass shootings as part of everyday life. They recognize that we must reject the status quo and demand leadership from all members of the New York Congressional Delegation to pass sensible gun laws and fight to save lives,” said NYAGV Deputy Director Colin Weaver.

The Binghamton Mayor, Broome County DA, and Binghamton Police Chief join a growing list of supporters, including:

- Los Angeles Police Chief Charlie Beck (CA)
- Major Cities Chiefs Association
- New York State Association of Chiefs of Police (NY)
- Minneapolis Police Chief Timothy J. Dolan (MN)

- Philadelphia Police Chief Charles Ramsey (PA)
- Providence Police Chief Colonel Dean Esserman (RI)
- Arlington Police Chief Theron Bowman (TX)
- Former Vice President Dick Cheney
- Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa (CA)
- Los Angeles City Council (CA)
- Los Angeles City Attorney Carmen Trutanich (CA)
- NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg (NY)
- Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter (PA)
- U.S. Conference of Mayors
- New York City Councilwoman Gale Brewer (NY)
- Vincent D’Onofrio, actor
- Colin Goddard, VA Tech shooting victim
- Kelly O’Brien, fiancée of Tucson shooting victim Gabe Zimmerman
- Citizens Crime Commission of New York City
- New Yorkers Against Gun Violence
- Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence
- Violence Policy Center
- Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence
- States United to Prevent Gun Violence
- Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence

The Citizens Crime Commission of New York City is an independent nonprofit organization working to make criminal justice and public safety policies and practices more effective through innovation, research, and education. In the last three decades, the Crime Commission has been a leader on key issues such as: expanding the use of DNA evidence in crime fighting, creating innovations that reduce juvenile crime, developing interventions against gun violence and illegal gun crime, and highlighting the changing nature of the threat of terrorism.

New Yorkers Against Gun Violence (NYAGV) is a statewide advocacy group working to build public awareness of the devastating impact of gun violence in New York and across the country, while advocating for sensible gun legislation on the city, state and federal levels.

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