



# TOWN OF HAMDEN

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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Curt Balzano Leng  
*Mayor*

### *Media Release*

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### **MAYOR LENG JOINS** **“MAYORS AGAINST ILLEGAL GUNS”**

**HAMDEN** –Mayor Curt Balzano Leng is proud to announce that he has officially joined the national “Mayors Against Illegal Guns” organization as a representative for Hamden. Mayor Leng joins 18 other Connecticut municipalities in the on-going effort to create rational and responsible gun legislation throughout the state of Connecticut and the Nation as a whole. “Mayors Against Illegal Guns” is a coalition of mayors who support Second Amendment rights but know that we as citizens can do more to protect our towns and cities in the face of crime.

Each year upwards of 30,000 Americans across the country are killed as a result of gun violence – including 12,000 who are murdered – destroying families and communities in big cities and small towns. By joining this organization, Mayor Leng unites his efforts with a team of national leaders working towards responsible gun owner policies such as: the implementation of background checks for gun sales, punishing criminals who possess illegal guns to the maximum extent of the law, and specifically

targeting irresponsible gun dealers who knowingly circumvent laws to sell guns to unlawful recipients.

“It is essential to support efforts of our local Hamden Police Department and State and Federal officials in the development and implementation of technologies and legislation that foster the detection and tracing of illegal guns. The threat posed by illegal guns is enormous and one we need to work diligently to battle to secure the safety of our communities.” said Mayor Curt Balzano Leng.

The complete set of Principles espoused by “Mayors Against Illegal Guns” are as follows:

- PUNISH – to the maximum extent of the law – criminals who possess, use, and traffic in illegal guns.
- TARGET and hold accountable irresponsible gun dealers who break the law by knowingly selling guns to straw purchasers.
- EXTEND background check requirements to all gun sales, including the private sales that take place between strangers online and at gun shows.
- OPPOSE all federal efforts to restrict cities’ right to access, use, and share trace data that is so essential to effective enforcement, or to interfere with the ability of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to combat illegal gun trafficking.
- WORK to develop and use technologies that aid in the detection and tracing of illegal guns.
- SUPPORT all local, state, and federal legislation that targets illegal guns; coordinate legislative, enforcement, and litigation strategies; and share information and best practices.
- INVITE other cities to join us in this national effort.

Visit <http://everytown.org/mayors/> for more information

or contact

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