



MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

April 19, 2023

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The Honorable Jim Jordan
Rayburn House Office Building, 2056
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jerry Nadler
Rayburn House Office Building, 2132
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Andy Biggs
Cannon House Office Building, 252
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee
Rayburn House Office Building, 2314
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Jordan, Ranking Member Nadler, Representative Biggs, and Representative Jackson Lee,

For more than three decades, I have served this country as a law enforcement agent, in every position from patrol and SWAT to now chief of the ninth largest police department in the country. I also lead the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA), comprised of police executives representing the largest cities in the U.S. and Canada, to advance public safety through innovation, research, policy development, government engagement, community outreach, and leadership development. Key to achieving our public safety goals is having the congressional support and tools needed to keep our communities safe, which is why I write to you today.

Outdated legislation – The *Gun Control Act of 1968 (GCA)* – is holding law enforcement back from utilizing the latest and greatest life-saving technologies offered. To put it into perspective, this legislation was enacted the same year the Intel Corporation was founded and the Apollo 8 mission – the first manned spacecraft to orbit the moon - was launched, so technology has changed a great deal over the last 55 years.

Due to the definition of a “firearm” in the GCA regarding the manner in which an object is propelled and their interpretation of it, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) is anticipated to block the usage of certain Conducted Energy Weapons (CEWs) that have been proven to save lives.

CEWs are integral to law enforcement encounters due to their ability to de-escalate situations and limit risk of death and injury. CEWs and other innovative, less-lethal technologies have been significantly upgraded over the years, are safer than ever, and should not be classified as deadly force objects like firearms.

I encourage your committee to update this out-of-date description, modernize the GCA, and exclude “less-lethal projectile devices” from being classified as firearms. This

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Ottawa, Ontario
Peel Region, Ontario
Toronto, Ontario
Vancouver, B.C.
Winnipeg, Manitoba
York Region, Ontario

seemingly small change will make a big difference and would help police departments nationwide protect our communities and save lives by increasing access to less-lethal devices.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Edgardo Garcia', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Edgardo (Eddie) Garcia
President, Major Cities Chiefs Association