



March 19, 2009

Mayors Against Illegal Guns
Mayor Michael Bloomberg
Office of the Mayor
New York City, NY 10007

Mayor Thomas Menino
1 City Hall Square, Suite 500
Boston, MA 02201

Dear Mayor Bloomberg and Mayor Menino,

I am writing you in your roles as co-chairs of the "Mayors Against Illegal Guns (MAIG)" Coalition. In 2005, I became a member of MAIG based on my belief that this group would help in the fight against criminal gun use. I thought that it would help shine a light on the efforts of mayors all across the United States to fight crime committed with firearms.

As you know, the people of Knoxville, as in the rest of Tennessee, strongly value their constitutional right to bear arms. I wholeheartedly share this commitment to the second amendment. Unfortunately, I have come to the conclusion that MAIG has expanded its efforts far beyond its original mission of fighting against illegal gun use by criminals to include advocacy for a number of proposed policies that I believe intrude on the rights of legitimate gun owners.

Therefore while I will continue to work to deal with the serious problem of criminals illegally obtaining and using guns in the commission of crimes, I have come to the conclusion that I must resign from MAIG. I request that you remove my name from your web site and from your membership lists.

Sincerely,

Bill Haslam

BH: hp