



Message from Mayor Manny Diaz

Dear Citizens:

Since 2003, the amount of crime involving a firearm has dropped significantly in Coconut Grove. Hard work on behalf of the Miami Police Department and the community has resulted in less armed robberies and less assault and battery cases involving a gun.

Coconut Grove is one of Miami's neighborhoods making a strong effort to reduce gun violence. However, recent events remind us of the need to continue the fight against gun violence.

Coconut Grove merchant Angel Arias was the beloved owner of the Coconut Grove Meat Market at 3461 Grand Avenue. Customers and friends were used to calling him "Papi" since shortly after he opened the grocery store over two decades ago.

On September 25, 2005, armed robbers entered Mr. Arias' store. When he refused to part with his hard earned money the assailants shot "Papi" multiple times. He died shortly after. A community that had made great strides in reducing crime was reminded once again that gun violence can strike at any time.

Guns are wreaking havoc across our neighborhoods, taking innocent lives and destroying families in the process. Gun violence affects us all when it is no longer safe to walk the streets at night or let our children play outside. We cannot sit idly by and watch our neighborhoods as they are destroyed by callous, lawless individuals whose senseless actions are facilitated by the use of a gun.

We must prevent such tragedies from repeating themselves. We can curb gun violence by preventing guns from falling into the wrong hands. Together we can overcome the epidemic of gun violence.

Sincerely,

