



## Message from Mayor Manny Diaz

Dear Citizens:

In February of last year, a teenager was shot and killed in the housing center on NW 63<sup>rd</sup> Street and 12<sup>th</sup> Parkway.

He was a good person who had never been in trouble before. He found himself in the wrong place at the wrong time. His killer felt that the young man had looked at him “the wrong way.”

The murder was a senseless crime, no rhyme, no reason. It is an example of the tragedies that occur when the wrong people bear firearms. Sadly there are many cases like it and stories like these are too common. The murderer was later convicted for killing seven people in Model City.

Gun violence is especially troubling in Model City. The area has led the City of Miami each of the past seven years in assaults with a firearm. Since 2004, the use of a gun has been involved in 32 homicides, over half of all robberies and hundreds of assault cases. As a result, Model City reports more incidents of gun violence than any other area in the Southeastern United States.

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. For the sake of our community, we must curb gun violence by preventing guns from falling into the wrong hands. Together we can stop the violence.

Sincerely,

