



Message from Mayor Manny Diaz



Dear Residents:

As Mayor of the City of Miami, I have made it a top priority to reduce gun violence in all of our neighborhoods. Guns wreak havoc, taking innocent lives and destroying families. They affect us all when it is no longer safe to walk the streets at night or let our children play outside.

One neighborhood that has witnessed a strong reduction in the amount of crime involving a firearm is Overtown. Since 2003, armed robberies have dropped from 45 to 14, while assault and battery cases involving a gun have dropped from 37 to 22. These statistics follow the 12% decline in overall crime seen in Overtown from 2001 to 2004.

These are encouraging signs that display the hard work being done by both the Miami Police Department and the community to reduce crime in Overtown, specifically as it relates to gun violence. Yet, there are constant reminders that we can and must do more.

In April of 2004, a man was shot and killed as a result of a confrontation that took place near Northwest 2nd Court and 17th Street. The tragedy of this crime is that the victim was not involved in the argument. He was wrongly identified as the man who started the argument. His death was a tragic mistake.

We cannot sit idly by and watch our neighborhoods as they are threatened 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. I urge you to spread this message to your family and friends. Together we can overcome this epidemic, and restore safety and pride to our streets and communities.

Sincerely,

