



# ***Heeding God's Call to End Gun Violence***

## **Feds Announce New Plan to Combat Illegal Gun Trafficking**

Attorney General Merrick Garland outlined a new federal strategy seeking to diminish the gun trafficking that damages families and neighborhoods across the country, focused on only five cities (New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Washington and San Francisco). As reported by the Associated Press [Garland vows crackdown on gun trafficking as violence surges \(kplctv.com\)](#), "strike forces" of local and federal investigators and prosecutors will newly work together to pursue straw buying and trafficking cases in gun trafficking corridors.

Garland also urged law enforcement to work with neighborhood organizations to encourage success of the new strategy.

While applauding any new dedication of resources and effort directed at the prime problem of gun trafficking, Heeding, based on our experience and leadership in bringing attention to the devastation wrought by gun trafficking, has questions and concerns. For one, it seems bizarre that Philadelphia was not one of the five focus cities, given that it typically has the highest *per capita* gun murder rate among the nation's largest cities, due to the rampant illegal distribution system that floods the city's neighborhoods with handguns.

We also question the likely effectiveness of the just announced strategy. Historically, increased law enforcement attention to gun trafficking has both resulted in relatively minor decreases in gun violence and proven temporary. As has been heard from nearly every police chief and district attorney from affected cities, the problem of gun trafficking cannot be tamed by arrests. What makes infinitely more sense would be enactment of state legislation limiting individual purchasers to a single handgun in any thirty-day period, known as One Handgun A Month. Such a law, by making gun trafficking both more expensive and more risky for traffickers, can significantly reduce the availability and increase the cost of trafficked handguns.

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*Heeding God's Call to End Gun Violence (Heeding)* is a faith-based and grassroots organization devoted solely to saving lives from the uniquely American scourge of gun violence. *Heeding* is headquartered in Philadelphia, with volunteer chapters in the Mid-Atlantic. *Heeding's* activities include using faithful public pressure to persuade gun retailers to eschew sales to those who would resell guns on the street, public interfaith Murder Site Witnesses in effected neighborhoods, installations of Memorials to the Lost™, portable tee-shirt memorials honoring local victims of gun violence and more.

***Heeding God's Call to End Gun Violence™***

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