



PRESS RELEASE

Attorneys General of Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C. Address Gun Violence Strategies at First-Ever Regional Meeting *Frosh, Herring and Racine pledge increased collaboration and information sharing to target illegal guns and reduce gun violence in region*

Baltimore, MD (Jan. 15, 2016) -- Attorney General Brian E. Frosh today joined Virginia Attorney General Mark R. Herring and Washington, D.C. Attorney General Karl A. Racine for a first-of-its-kind regional meeting to discuss collaboration and cooperation across state lines to reduce and gun violence in the national capital region.

The three legal officers agreed to designate a point person in each office to work with counterparts to establish a structure for greater communication, and to facilitate the sharing of strategies and criminal information and to develop new initiatives. They briefed each other on ongoing strategies in each jurisdiction, and reinforced their commitment to make sure that dangerous individuals do not have access to guns.

"Crime doesn't respect boundaries, and our crime-fighting strategies need to cross jurisdictions as well," said Attorney General Frosh. "I applaud my colleagues for their commitment to ending gun violence and illegal gun trafficking. We might have different laws, but we have the same goals."

Added Attorney General Herring: "Too many families in Virginia, Maryland, and the District, have been touched by gun violence. They unfortunately know what it's like to have a loved one in the wrong place at the wrong time, and how quickly an act of gun violence can change a life forever," said Attorney General Herring. "We can and should do more to enforce our existing gun laws, even while advocating for additional measures like universal background checks. This partnership with Attorney General Frosh and Attorney General Racine is going to allow us to work regionally to reduce gun violence and illegal gun sales and possession."

"Gun violence takes a terrible toll not only on families in the District, but on families across the Washington region," said Attorney General Racine. "My colleagues are here because we all want to be good neighbors to each other in this region, and we want to reduce the gun violence that results from the illegal gun trade. All of our jurisdictions have to live with the consequences of the proliferation of illegal guns - and the trade in guns is regional, so we believe any solutions must be regional."

According to data from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and published by the Baltimore Sun, of the 5,079 guns used in crimes in Maryland in 2014, 43 percent came from

other states. More of those guns came from Virginia than any other place (533), followed by Pennsylvania (309).

As a member of the General Assembly, Attorney General Frosh was the chief advocate of the Maryland Firearm Safety Act of 2013, regarded as one of the strongest gun safety laws in the nation. Attorney General Frosh told his colleagues yesterday that since the law's handgun licensing requirements took effect, 627 handgun qualification license applications have been disapproved, mainly for misdemeanor or felony convictions.

Attorney General Frosh last year sent a letter to each Attorney General in the U.S. updating them on research from the Johns Hopkins Center For Gun Policy Research showing that handgun licensing requirements lead to a reduction in gun homicides.

This was the first time Attorneys General Frosh, Herring and Racine have held a joint meeting, and the first time the chief legal officers of Virginia, Maryland, and Washington D.C. have met to discuss gun violence prevention and reduction.