



CITY OF BOSTON • MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
MARTIN J. WALSH

September 3, 2019

Senator Michael O. Moore
Chair, Joint Committee on Public Safety &
Homeland Security
State House, Room 109-B
Boston, MA 02133

Representative Harold P. Naughton
Chair, Joint Committee on Public Safety &
Homeland Security
State House, Room 167
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairman Moore, Chairman Naughton and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to you today in support of H.2077, *An Act Relative to the Transportation of Illegal Firearms*, filed by Representative Russell Holmes. This bill will serve as a vital tool to deter individuals from transporting illegal firearms or allowing their vehicles to be used to transport illegal firearms.

In Boston alone this year, we have had 147 shooting victims, many of which have been young adults throughout the City and 24 of which have lost their lives. Often times, friends or family use their vehicles to help individuals with illegal firearms to commit these acts of violence, and it's time to hold these individuals accountable for their part in the cycle of violence. This bill will allow the Boston Police Department and other law enforcement agencies across the Commonwealth to subject the owner of a vehicle where an illegal firearm is recovered to an initial fine plus the cost of towing and stage fees, prior to the release of the vehicle.

Although Massachusetts has some of the strongest laws related to firearms in the country, we know that additional tools, such as those proposed in H.2077, can help us in protecting the public from those who seek out illegal firearms for criminal use, without infringing on constitutional rights or impacting law-abiding citizens. This is something that is clear, illegal possession of a firearm is a crime, and law enforcement agencies need as many tools as possible to deter individuals from participating in violence. This legislation will provide officers with a new and innovative approach to charging individuals involved with the transport of illegal firearms.

Focused deterrence strategy has great potential to complement our existing violence reduction efforts. I respectfully request your support of this bill and thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly or you may reach Alyssa Ring in the Mayor's Office of Intergovernmental Relations at (617) 635-3817.

Sincerely,

Martin J. Walsh
Mayor of Boston

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