

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3208

January 9, 2013

Mr. B. Todd Jones
Acting Director
The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
99 New York Avenue, NE
Suite 5S 100
Washington, D.C. 20226

Dear Mr. Jones:

I write to formally request a meeting to discuss halting the flow of illegal guns into New York's Eighth Congressional District. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) plays a critical role in protecting our communities from violent crime, criminal organizations and the illegal use and trafficking of firearms, among its other responsibilities. The agency is on the front-line of the national battle against gun violence.

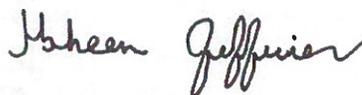
This past week, in what is becoming far too familiar to my constituents, Jason Lewis – a 34-year-old, father of three – was fatally shot in the predawn hours of January 6 at a local Brooklyn diner. The inability of residents to feel safe in their own communities cannot persist. This incident is the most recent example of the unacceptable level of violence that exists throughout neighborhoods within the Eighth Congressional District.

Last year, there were 632 victims of gun violence in Brooklyn. Further emblematic of this widespread problem, there were 174 shooting victims in the New York City Police Department's 73rd and 75th Precincts. These precincts are located in two Brooklyn neighborhoods, East New York and Brownsville, that I represent. In these two communities alone, there is approximately one shooting victim every forty-eight hours. This situation is intolerable.

The problem persists even though New York State has some of the most stringent gun control laws in the nation, highlighting the adverse impact of the flow of guns into New York City from other parts of the country. The communities of Bedford-Stuyvesant, East New York, Coney Island and Brownsville, among others, are paying an unacceptably high price for the nationwide failure to address the proliferation of unlawful interstate gun trafficking.

These issues fall under the jurisdiction of the ATF and are of great concern to my constituents. Accordingly, I respectfully request a meeting as soon as possible to discuss how your agency can best address this problem.

Sincerely,



Hon. Hakeem Jeffries
Member of Congress
New York, 8th District