



February 26, 2016

The Honorable Loretta Lynch  
United States Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Lynch:

As the representative of Florida's 24th Congressional District, which includes the City of Miami, Miami Gardens, and North Miami, I am writing to request your immediate assistance in combatting the ongoing gun violence crisis in Miami-Dade County. District 24 encompasses the county's urban core, and is the area where most of the bloodshed is taking place, devastating my constituents on a nearly weekly basis.

Gun violence has reached epidemic levels in Miami-Dade County. In the past three years, more than 100 children have been fatally shot. Last year alone, 79 public school students were shot; 19 of whom died from their wounds. It would be naive to believe that some of these kids weren't looking for trouble and to ignore the fact that black children are killing each other. But in too many cases, the victims are innocent and preparing for bright futures. That certainly was the case with the two students who were inexplicably gunned down at a park while playing basketball. They were active participants in the in-school mentoring program, the 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project, and had earned full scholarships to attend college. Gun violence in Miami-Dade County has reached a state of emergency.

Departmental support has been a critical component of our efforts to address gun violence. I have successfully advocated for federal grants under the Community Oriented Policing Services program to fund new hiring in our local police departments. I worked closely with the Miami-Dade Police Department to secure a grant under the Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program to support cross-sector partnerships and innovative strategies to tackle crime and violence in the Northside District.

In 2011, after seven black men were shot and killed in a period of seven months, I kept the community calm by letting them know that I would appeal to the Department of Justice to conduct a formal investigation. I applaud DOJ's swift response to my request and the recent consent decree negotiated by your office. I am working hand in hand with Mayor Regalado and Chief Llanes to enforce this much-needed resolution.

I am thankful for the Department's assistance, but more must be done.

WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE  
208 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-4506  
FAX: (202) 226-0777

MIAMI GARDENS OFFICE  
18425 NW 2ND AVENUE  
SUITE #355  
MIAMI GARDENS, FL 33169  
(305) 690-5905

PEMBROKE PINES OFFICE  
PEMBROKE PINES CITY HALL  
10100 PINES BOULEVARD  
BUILDING B, 3RD FLOOR  
PEMBROKE PINES, FL 33026  
(954) 450-6767

WEST PARK OFFICE  
WEST PARK CITY HALL  
1965 SOUTH STATE ROAD 7  
WEST PARK, FL 33023  
(954) 989-2688

MIRAMAR OFFICE  
MIRAMAR CITY HALL  
2300 CIVIC CENTER PLACE  
MIRAMAR, FL 33025  
(954) 602-4357

Miami-Dade County community leaders are deeply committed to alleviating this dire situation and have taken concrete steps to do so. On February 19, 2016, I partnered with Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez to convene the Miami-Dade County My Brother's Keeper Action Summit, an event that launched our county's acceptance of the My Brother's Keeper Community Challenge. We were honored to have Acting Education Secretary John B. King, Jr., and White House Cabinet Secretary Broderick Johnson join us for this event. To implement this initiative, which will help ensure our young people benefit from coordinated efforts to keep them safe from violent crime, we engaged 33 mayors, county commissioners, police chiefs, the offices of the public defender and the state attorney, the Juvenile Justice Department, the faith community, the Miami-Dade County Public School District, and community youth. The summit was a huge success.

**The very next day**, King Carter, a six-year-old boy who lived in the heart of District 24, was fatally shot while playing outside with friends. This innocent little boy was caught in the crossfire between gang members who were retaliating against each other, underscoring the need for much further action. It is unconscionable that almost every other weekend a child is the victim of senseless gun violence in my district.

Despite all of our efforts to stem the violence, victims and their families, concerned citizens and all those who care about our young people are demanding that more is done to stop these unnecessary killings. I, too, believe that additional Department of Justice resources are needed to ensure that our goals are realized and sustained. Our law enforcement community could benefit tremendously from the Department programs like the Emergency Federal Law Enforcement Assistance Program.

I am formally requesting funds from that safety net to help fight senseless gun violence in Miami-Dade County. In addition, I am requesting a meeting with you or a representative from your office to discuss EFLEA and other DOJ programs that can help save lives, address gun violence, and build ladders of opportunity for my constituents. They deserve to live in a community where they can feel safe and raise their children to grow and thrive.

I look forward to hearing from you soon to ascertain a response to my request. You may contact my chief of staff, Kim Bowman, at 202-225-4506.

Thank you for consideration.

Sincerely,



Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress