



**Memorializing Resolution of the City Council - #0016-2024**

Sponsored by: **Miguel A. Meléndez, Jr., City Council President; Willie J. Lightfoot, Sr., Councilmember At-Large**

To The Honorable  
Rochester City Council  
30 Church Street  
Rochester, New York 14614

***RE: Memorializing the President of the United States and both Houses of Congress to repeal the Tiahrt Amendment – to allow for more transparent access to gun tracing data.***

Honorable Council Members:

I ask you to join me by signing your name on this Memorializing Resolution urging the President of the United States and both Houses of Congress to repeal the Tiahrt Amendment – to allow for more transparent access to gun tracing data and, in doing so, to collectively **State and Resolve:**

**WHEREAS**, We, the undersigned members of Rochester City Council, believe that gun violence is a critical issue that has plagued the City of Rochester for decades, and these acts of violence impact each and every one of the communities we serve – and therefore, we urge the President and Federal lawmakers to take a necessary step towards eradicating gun violence by repealing the Tiahrt Amendment; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the Rochester Police Department’s Open Data Portal, there were 43 fatal shootings, 57 fatal shootings, 63 fatal shootings, and 44 fatal shootings in the years 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023, respectively; and

**WHEREAS**, there have been 17 fatal shootings and 82 total shooting incidents that comprise 104 total victims in 2024 year-to-date, according to the Rochester Police Department’s Open Data Portal; and

**WHEREAS**, seven minors have been the victim of shootings so far in 2024, one of which was fatal; and

**WHEREAS**, firearm violence has a detrimental effect on our city’s communities as a result of increased healthcare and emergency services costs, criminal justice costs, and loss of income for workers who are victims of gun violence and are unable to continue working or are caregivers of such gun violence survivors; and

## ***RE: Repeal of the Tiahrt Amendment***

**WHEREAS**, according to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), as well as a 2009 University of California Davis study on crime gun sales, researchers have found that a dealer's sales volume is not an adequate predictor of a disproportionate number of traces – instead, these "crime gun dealers," most of whom operate outside of the most-impacted communities, often engage in irresponsible or illegal practices, including selling to straw purchasers, bulk or repeat sales to gun traffickers, and selling guns off the books, behaviors that divert guns to the illegal market; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2023, the City of Rochester released a Gun Trace Data Report compiled by Brady United Against Gun Violence to the public, which was a groundbreaking gun trace dataset that examined trends in crime gun trace data secured in Rochester; and

**WHEREAS**, since 2003 the Tiahrt Amendment, passed at the behest of the gun lobby, has prohibited the National Tracing Center of the ATF from disclosing information from its firearms trace database to anyone other than a law enforcement agency or prosecutor only in connection with a criminal investigation; and

**WHEREAS**, crime gun trace information can be used to identify and understand in-state and interstate patterns within the sources and pathways of crime guns – information vital to impacted communities wanting to fight the proliferation of trafficked guns; and

**WHEREAS**, access to this data can reduce gun crime by enabling the development of informed supply-side strategies and policies aimed at reducing gun trafficking and violence by incentivizing gun dealers to adhere to safer business practices, and by allowing citizens to hold accountable the small number of irresponsible dealers profiting off of, and in some cases, allowing the proliferation of trafficked crime guns at the expense of our communities;

**WHEREAS**, various national entities, such as Mayors Against Illegal Guns, believe that having further access to the ATF database would help municipal police departments track down sellers of illegal guns and curb crime; and

**WHEREAS**, numerous police organizations oppose the Tiahrt Amendment, such as the Major Cities Chiefs Association (which represents the 69 largest police departments in the United States), the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the International Brotherhood of Police Officers, the Police Executive Research Forum, and the Police Foundation; and

**WHEREAS**, repealing the Tiahrt Amendment would create an effective tool at the municipal level to help lower the unacceptably elevated rate of gun-related violence in the city of Rochester and across the United States.

**RE: Repeal of the Tiahrt Amendment**

**Now, Therefore, be it RESOLVED**, We, the undersigned Members of Rochester City Council, call on the President of the United States and both houses of the United States Congress to repeal the Tiahrt Amendment and allow the ATF to freely disclose data on crime gun traces to the general public.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Miguel A. Meléndez, Jr." in a cursive style.

**Miguel A. Meléndez, Jr.**, President  
At-Large Representative

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Willie J. Lightfoot, Sr." in a cursive style.

**Willie J. Lightfoot, Sr.**, Councilmember  
At-Large Representative

**RE: Repeal of the Tiahrt Amendment**

The following Councilmembers join their colleagues in support of Memorializing Resolution 0016-2024:



**LaShay D. Harris**, Vice President  
South District Representative



**Mitch Gruber**, Councilmember  
At-Large Representative



**Mary Lupien**, Councilmember  
East District Representative



**Stanley Martin**, Councilmember  
At-Large Representative



**Bridget A. Monroe**, Councilmember  
Northwest District Representative



**Michael Patterson**, Councilmember  
Northeast District Representative



**Kim Smith**, Councilmember  
At-Large Representative