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Honorable Michael Bloomberg  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor Bloomberg:

I am writing to express my serious concern regarding your administration's practice of selling spent shell casings to a gun dealer in Georgia, rather than simply selling the metal as scrap, as outlined in today's *New York Times*.

We have seen a number of high profile shootings in the past few weeks. Right here in the Bronx, four-year-old Lloyd Morgan was gunned down at a basketball game, simply for being in the wrong place when a shooting occurred. Such a tragedy could not have occurred without an illegal gun, and without the ammunition that comes with it.

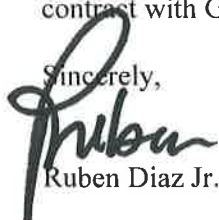
While I understand that your department and this administration does not intend to work with disreputable gun and ammunition dealers, today's article indicates that the City is not sure if Georgia Arms is a reputable dealer. New York City should not do business with any company without a thorough check of that entity's reputation and legal history, and it is troubling that your administration is unsure if such a background check took place.

Regardless of Georgia Arms' reputation as a gun dealer, it is unconscionable that this administration would be in business with any out-of-state firearms dealer, given what we know about how illegal guns make their way to this City through such companies. The City should not make it easy for ammunition to be produced, since that ammunition could one day return to our City and strike down an innocent victim—another Lloyd Morgan.

I am a great admirer of your work on gun violence, and I have been proud to stand with you in the past to combat gun violence in our neighborhoods. Our City should not be in business with gun dealers, period. It sends a contradictory message to the people of New York, especially in light of all the work we have done together to combat gun violence in our streets.

We should continue to make it difficult for illegal guns and ammunition to make their way to our borders. With that in mind, our police department's spent shell casings should only be sold as scrap and any contract with Georgia Arms, or any other out-of-state gun dealer, should be canceled, immediately.

Sincerely,

  
Ruben Diaz Jr.