

CeaseFirePA

Taking a Stand Against Gun Violence in Pennsylvania

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Philadelphia is Newtown: Honor the Victims by Committing to Work for Change

Philadelphia, December 13, 2013 – Today, CeaseFirePA joined Mothers in Charge, Mayors Against Illegal Guns, Heeding God's Call, and concerned citizens from across the Greater Philadelphia area to remember and honor the victims of Sandy Hook, and all the gun violence victims and survivors before and since that tragedy. The theme – Philadelphia is Newtown – was meant to demonstrate solidarity and to make clear that the tragedy of gun violence affects all of us every day.

Richard Negrin, Managing Director of the City of Philadelphia, shared his personal story of losing his father to gun violence and talked of the devastating toll illegal guns take on our City. He urged Philadelphians to come together to work for change to make our communities safer and spare more families from pain and loss.

Dorothy Johnson-Speight, founder and Executive Director of Mothers in Charge, speaking for mothers and fathers who have lost children to gun violence, urged “Philadelphia is Newtown. Families across America experience this every day.” Local families who have lost children to gun violence made this clear as they lit candles to memorialize the victims of Sandy Hook.

Shira Goodman, Executive Director of CeaseFirePA, urged Pennsylvanians to see this moment as a critical transition point: “We honor the victims not by silence but by committing to bring about meaningful change that will make a difference. We have gotten too good at observing anniversaries; it is time that we work with our elected officials to take action that will reduce gun violence and prevent future tragedies.”