

## COMMON GROUND



# DO NOT STAND IDLY BY

MAKE, BUY & SELL GUNS SMARTER & SAFER

**The next DNSIB meeting will be on April 20th from 6:30 to 8:00** at Invisible Reality Ministries, 2700 N 54th Street (on the corner of 54th and Center). If this is your first DNSIB meeting, you are welcome to attend a “get to know us” session at 6:00. Please let us know if you have anything you would like to share with the group in the next newsletter.

### ICC Resolution

Laura Vuchetich and Alexis Twito presented at the February Milwaukee County Intergovernmental Cooperation Council (ICC) meeting. The subject was a proposed resolution to purchase smart guns for research and testing purposes within all Milwaukee County police departments, and to hold a smart gun lock give-away event. This resolution came out of a “Strategy Luncheon” held in January and attended by DNSIB leaders along with Mayor Barrett, County Exec Abele, DA Chisholm, South Milwaukee Mayor Brooks and Oak Creek Mayor Scaffidi.

As you all well know, one of the core principles of the campaign is to “encourage” gun manufacturers to commit more resources into the development of smart guns and smart locks. They say they will do that only when there is a market for it. We know there won’t be a market until the de facto chokehold on selling them is lifted, and *that* won’t happen until a core constituency educates themselves about the technologies and begins to break down the barriers of misconceptions. That core constituency is law enforcement. We know – from the experience that Glock had after the NYPD adopted their gun – that when police adopt a gun, the market follows.

*If passed, the ICC resolution will be the first of its kind in the entire country.* As with everything gun-related, though, there is some resistance and a lot of misinformation. We are working to dispel both by meeting with as many Milwaukee County Police Chiefs as possible in advance of the ICC vote, likely at their May meeting. The purpose of these meetings is to convince police chiefs to keep an open mind to the resolution and keep a neutral stance with the mayor of his/her municipality.

### MCLEEA meeting report and follow-up

Rob Ater and Laura Vuchetich presented the ICC resolution to the Milwaukee County Law Enforcement Executives Association meeting in March. Assistant District Attorney Kent Lovern introduced us, stressing that this was about looking into the potential of emerging technologies. Wauwatosa Chief Barry Weber said a few words after the presentation about why he signed our RFI, saying that – despite his avoidance of anything political – he wants to do what he can to reduce tragedies like toddler deaths. This presentation was an introduction to the resolution, to be followed up with individual meetings with police chiefs. In connection to the ICC resolution, DNSIB teams have so far held in-person or telephone meetings with:

1. Brown Deer Police Chief Michael Kass
2. Cudahy Mayor John Hohenfeldt and Chief Thomas Poellot
3. Fox Point Chief Christopher Freedy
4. Franklin Chief Rick Oliva
5. Greenfield Mayor Mike Neitzke
6. Wauwatosa Police Chief Barry Weber
7. Whitefish Bay Police Chief Young

Other teams are working on future meetings with Bayside Chief Scott McConnell, Glendale Mayor Kennedy and Chief Czarnyszka, Greenfield Chief Wentlandt, Shorewood Mayor Johnson and Chief Nimmer, and South Milwaukee Chief Wellens.

Special recognition goes out to Gwen Werner, Michelle Waide, Mary Ann Steger, George Fahr, Judy Banta and Jerry Fredrickson for their efforts in setting up these meetings.

*All these meetings are evidence of truly great teamwork from our DNSIB members! Thank you!!*

### **Moms Demand Action**

At the March campaign meeting, we had a guest speaker from Moms Demand Action, Michelle Cloud, who gave an interesting and informative talk about what MDA is doing in the realm of reducing gun violence, both nationally and specifically in WI. Like DNSIB, MDA's work is data-driven, and they focus on only achievable outcomes. In Wisconsin, they have been working to encourage school boards to adopt resolutions against allowing guns on school premises. This effort is an attempt to counter (and hopefully squelch) the building legislative momentum to create a state-wide mandate against gun-free school zones.

### **Campus Carry Petition**

Although many individuals at the March campaign meeting reported success distributing the petition, Metro-IAF leaders tell us that – nationally – the number of signatures is still under 1000.

This initiative, co-sponsored by Metro IAF and NFTY (the National Federation of Temple Youth), requests that colleges and universities provide information to prospective students and parents about whether they are a "campus carry" campus. The petition is at [bit.ly/2IlmO0k](http://bit.ly/2IlmO0k).

### **MOU between MPD and ATF**

New DNSIB member, Erin Stilp, volunteered to wade through the legal and bureaucratic process of making a public records request of the Milwaukee Police Department to view the Memorandum of Understanding between the MPD and Milwaukee's ATF office. This MOU allegedly dictates the terms between the two offices that pertain to the sharing of information regarding crime gun trace data. We learned from Milwaukee Journal Sentinel journalist John Diedrich that such an MOU exists; and when Erin reached out to Diedrich to learn more, he encouraged her to attempt this route.

At the end of March, she received a response rejecting her request. However, the reason cited was that she was not specific enough in her request as to *which* MOU and *when*. The response also said that if she were to provide that information, they would reconsider her request. She will contact Diedrich again to hopefully get those specifics and then re-submit her request.

*Thanks, Erin! Good work!*

### **Price Family Update**

Keisha reported on the recent decision by attorney Patrick Dunphy to not take the Price family case. After his research he has determined it's not a winnable case. He will discuss the elements of a "winnable" case during our April 6th mtg.

### **Second Strategy luncheon to be held in April**

The next strategy luncheon has been scheduled for April 25. Confirmed attendees are Mayor Barrett, DA Chisholm, Wauwatosa Mayor Ehley and Chief Weber, and South Milwaukee Mayor Brooks.

Oak Creek Mayor Scaffidi resigned from his post on March 3<sup>rd</sup> to take a new job at WTMJ 620AM as co-host of a daily radio talk show. Although he is no longer an elected official, he informs us that he is still committed to the general agenda.

### **Patrick Dunphy education session on April 6**

Attorney Patrick Dunphy has agreed to hold an education session for us. The focus will be on lessons learned from the Price case study. (That is the case of the mother who was shot and killed last year by her toddler child while she was driving.) See his bio [here](#).

When: Thursday, 6 April, 4:30-5:30pm

Where: Immanuel Presbyterian Church (enter via the covered entrance), 1100 N. Astor St., Milwaukee.

If you intend to come, please email Rob Ater at [robertater@immanuelwi.org](mailto:robertater@immanuelwi.org) so that he can make appropriate arrangements for space and seating. (If you do not intend to come, you do not need to email anyone.)

### **CG Delegates' Assembly**

Common Ground will hold a [Delegates' Assembly](#) on Tuesday, April 25 at 7PM at St. Adalbert's Church. If you are willing to work the DNSIB table both before and after the assembly, please contact Laura at: [lauraukus@gmail.com](mailto:lauraukus@gmail.com).

### **Keeping Up With Gun Culture**

Al Jazeera has produced a youtube series on guns in America, including a piece on smart guns (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cHrbdugU2g0>). The entire 6 video series is informative and well produced.

The gun industry is struggling in a changed political climate, as written about in the following articles.

- <http://www.npr.org/2017/03/31/522036660/democrats-are-good-for-gun-sales-guess-what-happened-after-trumps-election>
- <https://apnews.com/6eecda6250aa47489d57374385a1bd05>