



JOSEPH P. RILEY, JR.  
MAYOR

*City of Charleston*  
*South Carolina*

BARBARA W. VAUGHN  
DIRECTOR  
PUBLIC INFORMATION

**FOR RELEASE: January 16, 2013**

**STATEMENT**  
**MAYOR JOSEPH P. RILEY, JR.**  
**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2013**

Mayor Joseph P. Riley, Jr. of Charleston today announced his strong support for the President's proposals to reduce gun violence and prevent future tragedies like the one in Newtown, CT.

Mayor Riley stated:

The level of gun violence in our country is a national tragedy. President Obama has recommended prudent, common-sense steps that must be taken right away, and I urge Congress and certainly the members of the South Carolina Congressional Delegation to support the President's recommendations. Assault weapons are not sporting weapons, they are not needed for protecting our homes or for self-defense, and conversely, when they get in the hands of deranged or hate-filled people, they become tools of mass murder.

Additionally, high-capacity magazines similarly offer deranged individuals a relative arsenal at their disposal. Further, loopholes in background checks, especially at gun shows, are a huge and dangerous opening to allow guns to get into the wrong hands.

I believe that what the President has outlined is overwhelmingly supported by a majority of citizens of our country. We owe it to the children and families in Newtown, CT and to the children and families in our city and every community in America to pass these common-sense measures as soon as possible.

*Note: Attached is 1) a copy of the letter Mayor Riley sent Vice President Biden on December 21, 2012, and 2) an op-ed article submitted by Mayor Riley which was published in the Post & Courier on Sunday, December 23, 2012, and 3) a copy of the letter that Mayor Riley sent every member of the South Carolina Legislative Delegation.*

**FOR MORE INFO:**

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