

## Calling for stricter federal gun laws

Written by Harry Colbert, Jr.  
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Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak and mayors and public safety officials from throughout the Midwest rallied together in a call for stricter federal gun laws.

Rybak, along with Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett, hosted the Midwestern Regional Gun Summit that took place in downtown Minneapolis on Jan. 10. The two mayors were joined by mayors and officials from cities such as Kansas City, Des Moines, IA, St. Paul, St. Cloud, Duluth, Brooklyn Park and others, including the acting director of the ATF, B. Todd Jones – all seeking a solution to curbing gun violence that is plaguing the nation.

The summit was called more than a year ago, but the timing could not have been more ironic as the nation is still in the direct aftermath of the Newtown, CT, shooting that killed 20 elementary school students and six educators. That, on top of a shooting in Aurora, CO, where 12 people were gunned down and another 70 wounded; a shooting in an Oregon mall where two were killed; and a shooting right here in Minneapolis where five people were murdered in a mass workplace shooting. Many are now calling for stricter national gun laws.

But the convened group did not focus solely on the headline-grabbing mass shootings, but the daily shootings plaguing urban metropolises.

"This summit was planned about a year ago," said Barrett. "Gun violence happens every day. It's scandalous and grotesque. We have to do much more than we're doing. But now the conversation is fundamentally different now that the president is saying this is a priority."

This past Wednesday, President Barack Obama signed 23 executive orders on the issue of curtailing gun violence.

