



## **LOST OR STOLEN FIREARMS REPORTING: SAVING LIVES THROUGH ACCOUNTABILITY**

### **Gun Violence Is a Public Health Crisis**

- Every year gun violence in Pennsylvania takes the lives of about 1,600 people--nearly 600 lives are lost to gun crimes and countless more are injured.
- The death and destruction is surging during the pandemic.
  - Between January and September 2020, 47% more people (1600+) in Philadelphia have been injured by gunfire than in 2019.
  - Shots were fired more than 1,700 times in the City of Pittsburgh between January and July of 2020.

### **More Firearms are Being Stolen**

- Between 2006 and 2016, the number of guns being stolen from individuals across the U.S. increased by 60%.
- Whether taken from gun stores or from individual gun owners, a gun is stolen in the United States every two minutes.
- In PA alone between 2012 and 2016, 937 guns were stolen from licensed gun dealers.

### **Gun Theft Is a Public Safety Threat**

- Individual reports total more than 350,000 per year--3.5 million over ten years.
- Police found a majority of 23,000 stolen guns recovered between 2010-2016 were connected to crimes. More than 1,500 of those were used in violent acts including murder and armed robbery.



- Less than 40% of total estimated gun thefts were reported to police in 2016
- In a recent study, nearly a third of guns recovered at Pittsburgh crime scenes were said to have been stolen.
- Yet under PA law, gun owners are not required to report the loss or theft of a firearm to law enforcement.

### **Require Reporting of Lost or Stolen Firearms in PA**

- In too many cases, irresponsible/criminal gun owners are using the absence of this law to illegally transfer guns to prohibited purchasers, drug dealers, or those who intend to harm others.
- A “lost or stolen gun reporting” law requiring gun owners to report the theft or loss of a gun within 72 hours of discovering it missing.
- Tiered penalty structure:
  - First offense: \$500 fine, no imprisonment--a life-saving “speeding ticket.”
  - Second offense: a misdemeanor of the second degree, with the possibility of one to two years in jail and a fine of up to \$5,000.
  - Third and subsequent offense: a misdemeanor of the first degree, with the possibility of two and a half to five years in prison and a fine of up to \$10,000.

### **The Rationale**

Reporting lost or stolen firearms:

- encourages responsible gun ownership by holding gun owners accountable.
- allows law enforcement to staunch the flow of illegal firearms into communities through more effective firearms tracking.
- Fewer stolen guns on the streets = fewer crimes = more saved lives.

To learn more, visit [www.ceasefirepa.org](http://www.ceasefirepa.org)