

*Harvey Johnson, Jr., Mayor*  
City of Jackson, Mississippi

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***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

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## Mayor Johnson and Chief Coleman Announce Expansion of Partnership with ATF and U.S. Attorney's Office

Mayor Harvey Johnson Jr. and Chief Rebecca Coleman announced that the City will have more resources to reduce gun violence in Jackson with the expansion of a partnership between the Jackson Police Department's Ceasefire Unit and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and the U.S. Attorney's Office. This partnership is part of ATF's Project Safe Neighborhoods strategy (PSN).

Project Safe Neighborhoods is a nationwide commitment dedicated to reducing violent crime, specifically those involving guns, through enforcement, deterrence, and prevention.

"We are pleased with the expansion of this partnership to remove illegal guns from our streets," said Mayor Johnson. "With the manpower and resources that ATF is providing our city, we are certain that we can not only be more effective in combatting violent crimes involving these weapons, but also in the successful prosecution of those violent offenders."

Through this partnership, the Jackson Police Department will work closely with the U.S. Attorney to screen each case and determine the best possible avenue for prosecution.

"We applaud ATF and the U.S. Attorney for their commitment to the city of Jackson," said Police Chief Rebecca Coleman. "We have no doubt that this strategy will produce results in our efforts to combat violent crimes involving guns. Our combined efforts have worked in the past and we are confident that we will now see even greater success."

The Jackson Police Department's Ceasefire Unit will have an ATF agent who will assist in investigating all gun related crimes. The ATF's National Integrated Ballistic Information Network Program will also be used as a vital tool to help solve violent firearms crimes through imaging the markings made on fired cartridge cases and bullets recovered from a crime scene or through a crime gun test fire.

"Our goal is to work hand in hand with our other law enforcement partners to reduce violent crime in our communities. We will aggressively focus on removing firearms from the hands of violent offenders. ATF will provide innovative technology, analytical investigative resources, and additional ATF agents as part of this PSN strategy. We will focus on one neighborhood at a time, one perpetrator at a time, one illegal gun at a time, and one hot-spot at a time. Only a team effort can succeed, and we are in it for the long haul. We hope the citizens of Jackson will join our PSN team to make our communities safer places to live," said ATF Special Assistant Agent in Charge Constance Hester.

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Since its inception, the program has proven to be a successful strategy in cracking down on gun crimes, and repeat offenders in cities across the United States. In-depth studies performed in nine cities by the National Institute of Justice found implementation of PSN produced a significant decline in gun related violence, especially compared to those cities that did not implement the program.

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