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## NEWS RELEASE

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### CHIEF VILLASEÑOR MEETS WITH PRESIDENT OBAMA AND MEMBERS OF HIS CABINET TO DISCUSS GUN VIOLENCE IN THE UNITED STATES

Chief Roberto Villaseñor of the Tucson Police Department is in Washington D.C. this week for a series of meetings. As part of his participation in the Major Cities Chief Conference, he is one of a group of police executives, who were invited to the White House to meet with President Barack Obama and Vice President Joseph Biden today to talk about gun control. Chief Villaseñor is honored by the invitation, recognizing the great opportunity to discuss reasonable measures the nation can consider regarding the topic of gun violence in today's society. In addition to the various police executives invited to participate in the meetings, other attendees include current Secretary of the United States Department of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano and United States Attorney General Eric Holder.

The meeting focused on a general conversation concerning the opinions of law enforcement executives with respect to the issue of gun violence. A variety of points were raised, with a consensus centering on a need to maintain both a multifaceted and a reasonable approach. Some of the main ideas that were discussed included the need for universal background checks, a general opposition to extended magazines in firearms available for public use, the need to consider mental health issues, and the desire of law enforcement executives to develop a mechanism for the purpose of recording any time a gun is transferred, lost, or stolen. The attendees also engaged in a general discussion to formulate a more universal approach to address multiple aspects of violence, not just gun violence. This included discussion about how the nation classifies and looks at crime and its effect on society. It needs to be emphasized that there was nothing in today's discussion that illustrated any intent to take legitimate guns away from owners. Another important topic that was broached today was the issue of mental illness and the role it plays on violence in society. Although the majority of people suffering from mental illness are not engaged in violent activity, it cannot be denied that some of the most recent horrific acts of violence have been committed by people with mental instability.

Overall it was an encouraging discussion about the need to bring reasonable reform to a very complicated topic. The President stressed the need for both sides to listen to valid points brought up during the course of this wide sweeping discussion.

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