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The third pandemic
Arne Duncan [info@obama.org]

Sent: Wednesday, October 07, 2020 7:44 PM
To: [Steve Johnston](#)



Hi there,

As we continue to grapple with the two pandemics wreaking havoc across the world, COVID-19 and systemic racism, we're sadly witnessing a third pandemic in cities across America. In 2020, we've seen a heartbreaking number of shootings and gun homicides primarily affecting Black and Brown communities, even as overall crime rates remain down for the year. Here in Chicago, we have already surpassed the number of homicides we saw in 2019.

[But even in a difficult year, there is always reason for hope.](#)



In cities across America, there are gun violence prevention organizations like the one I have the privilege of running, Chicago CRED, that are bucking nationwide trends and reimagining public safety—often in partnership with law enforcement—to make sure our kids make it home each night. There are brave men and women who are risking their lives to interrupt violence before it begins, and invest in exactly the people most at risk of harm. And there is a new generation of activists who refuse to accept that untimely death in their communities is a fact of life.

[Meet some of the inspiring voices who are battling gun violence in our cities today, learn about the causes of this challenging problem, and commit to doing your part to help end it.](#)

No matter what community you live in, there are steps you can take to fight gun violence in your communities, from volunteering in underserved and marginalized communities to mentoring those most at risk to simply educating yourself on the facts and discussing solutions with those around you.

America has a long way to go to end gun violence in our cities. But we have to recognize it as a collective problem that hurts us all, no matter which community we live in. We have to acknowledge that every life lost to gun violence matters—and that every one of us has a responsibility to stop it.

—Arne

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