

Office of the Mayor

ROBERT G. ORTT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mayor Ortt disavows Mayors Against Illegal Guns NT mayor did not sign pro-gun control letter

NORTH TONAWANDA—City of North Tonawanda Mayor Robert G. Ortt has disputed and disavowed an advocacy group's inclusion of his name among a group of mayors signing a letter to President Barack Obama and Congressional leaders urging new restrictions on gun ownership.

Ortt issued the following statement after discovering his name was listed among signers of the letter, sent Dec. 19 by **Mayors Against Illegal Guns**, a gun control group founded by New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg:

"I did not personally sign any letter and I am very upset that my name would be associated with this letter or with this organization. While I was deeply saddened and angered by the tragedy in Newtown, Connecticut, I am equally saddened and angered by those seeking to politicize this tragedy in order to push a political agenda that restricts our Second Amendment rights."

"I have sent an email to Mayors Against Illegal Guns and asked that my name be removed from their email distribution list and from any correspondence. I never joined that organization, and I do not share their agenda."

"I certainly believe that some action should be taken to protect our children and our families from the threat of violence. It should involve a multi-layered response that includes reforms to our mental health systems as well as how our teachers and parents can better take care of our children, both in out of the classroom. However, disarming law-abiding citizens does nothing to make our schools, our streets, or our communities safer."

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