



U.S. Department of Justice

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,
Firearms and Explosives

Assistant Director

JAN 26 2007

Washington, DC 20226

Mr. Alan Gottlieb
Second Amendment Foundation
James Madison Building
12500 N.E. Tenth Place
Bellevue, WA 98005

Dear Mr. Gottlieb:

This is in response to your inquiry to Attorney General Alberto Gonzales dated August 28, 2006, concerning New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg sending private investigators to five states to make straw gun purchases. You would like to know if this matter is under investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and if the New York City investigation obstructed an ongoing ATF investigation in some way. We apologize for the delay in our reply.

ATF has been made aware of the New York City investigation and has discussed this matter with the Criminal Justice Coordinator for the City of New York, Office of the Mayor. ATF is investigating the matter in order to determine if violations of Federal firearms laws occurred. Inasmuch as this is an ongoing ATF investigation, we hope you understand the sensitivity of the matter and our policy of not commenting on an open investigation at this time.

We appreciate your interest in this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact ATF if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely yours,

W. Larry Ford
Assistant Director

Public and Governmental Affairs