

Anne Arundel group looks to gun manufacturers to address violence

By NAOMI HARRIS

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Anne Arundel Connecting Together (ACT) members Sunday afternoon committed to working with a national campaign that addresses gun violence by going directly to gun manufacturers.

Leaders from Metro Industrial Areas Foundation, and the gun violence reduction and safety national campaign, Do Not Stand Idly By, came to the Mount Olive Community Life Center in Annapolis to talk about going beyond legislators and instead addressing gun manufacturers.

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“They decide who they sell their guns to, the manufactures, decide on the stores,” said Rabbi Joel Mosbacher, the co-chair of Do Not Stand Idly By.

“Gun manufacturers can decide to stop doing business with the bad apple dealers that are responsible for the sale of a huge number of crime guns that show up at crime scenes all around the states,” Mosbacher said.

Mosbacher, who lost his father to gun violence in Chicago, talked about the work of the campaign to combine efforts with the community, religious leaders, police, mayors, sheriffs, county officials and governors to keep people safe.



“We are going to collectively use our power to pressure the gun companies to do what they can do to change the gun industry, and reduce gun deaths in America,” Mosbacher said.

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chair of the Anne Arundel County Gun Violence

Along with Mosbacher, Bishop Charles Carroll, an ACT member and

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Prevention Task Force, talked about the resulting losses of gun violence.

Carroll, who lost his son to gun violence in Annapolis, talked openly about grieving families and to see the response of over 100 people attend the event meant a lot to him.

“We are in a crisis right now in America, with mass shootings and local killings We need to do everything we can to combat this problem,” Carroll said.

Linda Mundy, co-chair of ACT’s Gun Violence Reduction & Safety Team, said ACT’s decision to focus on gun violence was a result of the Capital Gazette shooting in 2018, in which a man killed five newspaper employees — Gerald Fischman, Rob Hiaasen, Rebecca Smith, Wendi Winters and John McNamara.

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The Do Not Stand Idly By campaign works to combine different departments from police, mayors, county officials and state attorneys to come together.

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The campaign promotes requesting information from gun manufacturers on safety and security, evaluating and testing new gun safety products, using data to evaluate the safety performance of gun manufacturers, and working with gun manufacturers to invest in life-saving safety technology.

ACT, a non-partisan organization, launched in October 2018 and combines 26 organizations from mostly faith-based churches and organizations to help “transform the lives” for people within Anne Arundel County, according to the press release.

“ACT is about building power, building power with people in their communities. They can have the ability to act and bring change,” said lead organizer and pastor of the United Church of Christ of Annapolis, Reverend Ryan Sirmons.

Along with members of churches, local officials like County Executive Steuart Pittman, attended the event.



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“I am glad that I am here, I looked at the website for Do Not Stand Idly By, and I

think it is a brilliant campaign,” Pittman said.
“When you go after stockholders and put financial pressure on companies that are doing manufacturing, you can get them to talk.”

ACT also established a group that focuses on gun violence, identifies injustice for families of gunshot victims from unsolved murders, use of illegally-owned guns in gun violence incidents, addresses fear and trauma by daily gun violence, and more.

Topics: [Steuart Pittman](#)



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