

PRESS ADVISORY
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**DC MILLION MOMS AND NO MURDERS DC TO
CONDUCT “LIE-IN” DEMONSTRATION TO PROTEST
LAX FEDERAL, STATE GUN LAWS**

Participants will call for tough gun policies and a murder free capital

Washington, DC, July 23, 2007 – Members of the District of Columbia Chapter of the Million Mom March (MMM-DC) and NO MURDERS DC will stage a “Lie-In” protest with other DC residents and community activists on Tuesday, July 24, 2007, to call attention to lax federal and state laws that give criminals and traffickers easy access to guns.

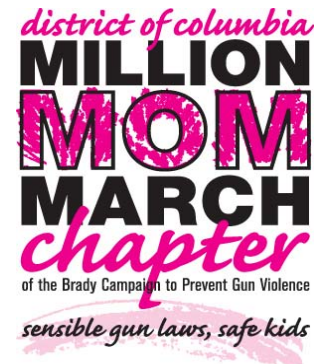
The protest will take place at 12:30 PM at the site of the US Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit at 333 Constitution Avenue NW in Washington, DC. The choice of location is significant. On March 9, 2007, the court declared the District’s longstanding handgun ban unconstitutional in a split (2-1) decision in the case of *Parker v. District of Columbia*. Provisions governing the safe storage of firearms in the home were also overturned.

Participants will express their support for DC Mayor Adrian Fenty and Acting Attorney General Linda Singer as they prepare to appeal the ruling to the US Supreme Court. “The *Parker* decision deprives residents of the District the basic right of self determination in determining their own public safety laws,” said MMM-DC President Ladd Everitt. “This case is literally a matter of life and death for residents of our city.”

“We’ve lost far too many of our young people, our most precious commodity, to gun violence,” added NO MURDERS DC Founder David Bowers. “We will ask participants to envision a District free of the scourge of homicide. And we will call on Mayor Fenty to name the members of the Comprehensive Homicide Elimination Strategy Task Force so their important work can begin immediately.”

At the protest, 32 volunteers dressed in black will lie down on the ground to symbolize the number of people that are murdered with guns every day in America. They will remain on the ground for several minutes, signifying the brief amount of time it takes to buy a gun in the United States. Demonstrators want to draw attention to the fact that it is far too easy for dangerous individuals—including criminals and traffickers who bring guns into the District—to purchase firearms in America.

The Lie-In demonstrations are the brainchild of Abigail Spangler, a Virginia mother who wanted to do something to honor the families who lost loved ones in the Virginia Tech tragedy. Her organization, Protest Easy Guns, provides everyday Americans with the tools to conduct local protests. Their website, www.protesteasyguns.com, includes information about the effort and photos from similar events around the country.



Media interested in filming the DC Lie-In or interviewing participants should contact Ladd Everitt at (202) 701-7171 or ladddc@aol.com.

###

NO MURDERS DC is an all-volunteer movement of concerned citizens started on December 22, 2000, by David Bowers. Its mission is to end murder in Washington, DC. NO MURDERS DC's guiding principles are: (1) One murder is one murder too many; (2) The resources to end murder in DC exist in DC; (3) When a murder happens in DC business as usual should stop and citizens should ask themselves what must be done to prevent another murder from happening.

###

What started as one of the largest marches on Washington is now a national network of 75 Chapters around the U.S. that work locally, yet stand together, in their fight against gun violence and the devastation it causes. As part of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, the Million Mom March Chapters believe that all Americans have the right to be safe from gun violence in their homes, neighborhoods, schools, and places of work and worship.