

Stamen A. P.

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

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ASSIGNED TO: \_\_\_\_\_  
FILE: \_\_\_\_\_

November 16, 1986  
18655 Birchcrest  
Detroit, MI 48221

Dear Mayor Young,

My name is Sarah Butler, and I am a senior in high school. I am writing because I am deeply concerned about the amount of crime in this city.

The issue of gun control is one that is crucial to me. A close friend of mine was fatally shot by a teenager on August 17, 1986. She was standing outside of a house after a party when three boys who had tried to crash the party earlier opened fire from a passing car. These shots found Melody Rucker's throat, shoulder, and eye. Melody died hours later.

There is no logical or sane reason for what happened. Melody wasn't into drugs; she wasn't the victim of a family feud; she wasn't mistaken for someone else. She was randomly and violently shot by a sixteen-year-old. The boy who killed her found the gun at home, most likely, and thought it was "cool" to carry it. When is it ever cool to kill a sixteen-year-old?

This city has a problem. Altogether too much money is spent on improving our riverfront and making the downtown area attractive to suburbanians. Detroit will never attract people until it is safe. Detroit is a place of fear for far too many people. I want to live in a city where I feel safe to walk at night. That doesn't seem to be too much to ask.

What I am looking for is a ban on handguns. Most likely, the youth who shot Melody "borrowed" that gun from his parents. That's where so many of the guns that are used by youth come from. These guns are not protecting anyone—they are killing innocent victims. Gun control laws are the only way to prevent more Melody Rucker's from happening. If one child is killed, the price is too high.

Sarah Butler  
(Sarah Butler)

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Police Dept. Youth Gun Violence  
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