

September 2, 2022

Mr. Stephen Squeri
Chief Executive Officer
American Express, Inc.
200 Vesey Street,
New York, New York 10285

Mr. Squeri:

Given the rising rates of gun violence across the country and the challenges lawmakers face in tightening our nation's lax gun laws, we write to urge American Express to do its part in keeping our communities safe by taking all necessary and appropriate steps to ensure bad actors are not exploiting our nation's financial system to carry out mass shootings and illicitly traffic firearms.

Research indicates that from 2007 to 2020, the shooters behind at least five mass shootings used credit cards to finance the purchases of firearms and ammunition. Some of those purchases took place through the American Express network. For instance, In 2016, the shooter in Orlando, Florida used multiple credit cards, including an American Express, to purchase more than \$26,000 worth of guns and ammunition. He killed 50 people.

American Express has a responsibility to prevent crimes being facilitated through its credit network, particularly when criminals follow known and identifiable purchasing patterns by acquiring large amounts of firearms and ammunition over a short period of time.

But public reports have indicated that American Express has worked to oppose efforts by Amalgamated Bank to apply for such a code at the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

We are writing to urge you to drop your opposition and actively support the creation of the new MCC for stand-alone gun and ammunition dealers. Such a code is absolutely essential for monitoring suspicious purchases and activities and helping law enforcement prevent individuals from carrying out acts of domestic terror, or engage in firearm trafficking and straw purchasing.

We know that American Express has demonstrated a willingness to conduct business responsibly and avoid high-risk transactions. For instance, press reports indicate that the company refuses to process payments for pornographic sites and your own website pledged to "do what's right" by "ensuring everything we do is reliable, consistent, and with the highest level of integrity."

Blocking an effort to track suspicious firearm and ammunition purchases and preventing law enforcement from identifying and stopping gun crimes is in direct opposition to this value.

We demand that you play your part in helping keep your customers, employees, and communities safe from gun violence.

Thank you,

Guns Down America, Giffords, Brady: United Against Gun Violence, New Yorkers Against Gun Violence