

September 2, 2022

Mr. Michael Miebach
Chief Executive Officer
Mastercard, Inc.
2000 Purchase Street
Purchase, NY 10577

Mr. Miebach:

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 Mastercard 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 Mastercard network.

- In 2012, the shooter at the movie theater in Aurora, Colorado used a Mastercard issued by USAA to purchase \$11,000 worth of weapons and military gear in the six-week period between May 22, 2012 and July 6, 2012. He killed 12 people.
- In 2016, the shooter in Orlando, Florida used multiple credit cards, including a Mastercard, to purchase more than \$26,000 worth of guns and ammunition. He killed 50 people.

Mastercard 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.

We are disappointed to learn that your company's leadership has previously failed to prioritize this matter.

In May 2019, your predecessor, former CEO Ajay Banga, stated that it was not Mastercard's responsibility to flag suspicious firearm sales, claiming "I don't know how to do it – I actually don't know how to do it." Banga's comment came after multiple news reports, and our research, indicated that Mastercard could help law enforcement preempt mass shootings by identifying suspicious purchases through a new Merchant Category Code (MCC) for the country's 9,000 federally licensed gun and ammunition dealers.

Since then, public reports have indicated that Mastercard 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.

Mastercard's Purpose Manifesto pledges, "Our responsibility is to let basic human decency serve as our guide." 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