

# Chicago's top cop blames gun laws for city's soaring homicide rate - even though it has some of the tightest firearm regulations in the country

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**PUBLISHED:** 00:00 EST, 19 February 2013 | **UPDATED:** 16:02 EST, 19 February 2013

Chicago's top policeman has drawn the ire of pro-gun lobbyists after he likened their influence to political corruption as he pushes for tougher firearm laws and regulations.

'If there was a special interest influencing police work, I believe that would be called corruption,' Chicago Police Superintendent Garry McCarthy said on the radio station WLSAM on Sunday. 'So, if it has to do with donating money, versus a popular vote, I think we have a bigger problem in this country and someone has to wake up to that.'

McCarthy made the remarks as the city, which is already known to have some of the most rigid gun laws in the nation, reels from a surging homicide rate and a series of headline-grabbing murders.



Chicago Police Superintendent Garry McCarthy has drawn the ire of pro-gun lobbyists after he likened their influence to political corruption

Chicago saw more than 500 homicides last year and 52 murders have already been reported since the start of the year.

One murder in particular got national attention when a 15-year-old girl, Hadiya Pendleton, was gunned down outside her school less than a week after performed at the presidential inauguration.

Obama paid tribute to Pendleton in his State of the Union address this month and he also visited a Chicago school to discuss his proposals for tougher gun laws.

Instead of changing the legislation regarding the use and sales of firearms, gun rights lobbyists are pushing for improvements to the nation's mental health system.

Meanwhile, gun rights advocates have pointed to Chicago as evidence that tougher gun laws don't mean fewer firearm-related deaths.



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'Garry McCarthy's understanding of our Constitution barely qualifies him as a meter maid, never mind the chief of the nation's third largest police department,' Illinois State Rifle Association Executive Director Richard Pearson said. 'What on earth would possess McCarthy to assert that constitutional rights should be meted out based on public opinion polls?'

Pearson added that McCarthy's view of the second amendment right to bear arms is 'dangerous and unbecoming of a civil servant.'

'If McCarthy is so interested in influence peddling, he should pop into some of the gin mills ringing the Illinois capitol and count the ruddy red noses of taxpayer-funded lobbyists for the city of Chicago, Pearson said, referring to the alcohol lobby.