“Good Morning everyone. I am Mitchell Balk, president of the Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation. I’m here today representing private sector funders who have been working quietly, but intensively, for the last 10 months, alongside City of Cleveland leaders, in public/private partnership, to address lead poisoning. Our goal has been to create an evidence-based model that will operate at scale, that will be embedded into our community, and be sustainable into the future. 

Our work to date has been fruitful, to the point that we are, today, ready to announce the establishment of the Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition, and to unveil our initial strategic approach that will result in a significant reduction in the number of Cleveland’s children with lead in their bloodstream. 

In March 2018, Mt. Sinai convened grantmaking colleagues to present the results of a listening tour that interviewed dozens of community stakeholders, and to study lessons learned from previous efforts. This group, which we now call Funders Concerned About Lead Poisoning, includes Mt. Sinai, the George Gund Foundation, the Saint Luke’s Foundation, the Cleveland Foundation, the Bruening Foundation, the Sisters of Charity Foundation, the Third Federal Foundation, and United Way of Greater Cleveland. Most of you are represented here today; and I would ask that you stand and be recognized.

Also joining us today is the leadership of many other Coalition partners, from housing, to health care, to economic development, from both the public and private sectors. Thank you for standing shoulder to shoulder with us today and into the future.

In partnership with the City of Cleveland, here is what this quiet phase of our emerging Coalition has accomplished:

Number one, we have commissioned research. Cleveland’s Lead Safe Solution must be research-based and reflect Cleveland’s unique assets. So, in addition to learning from national experts and peer cities, the Coalition has funded three research projects at the Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) Center on Urban Poverty and Community Development, including:

• Comprehensive scan of lead poisoning interventions and their effectiveness;
• In-depth profile of Cleveland landlords and their properties;
• Upstream analysis of the long-term costs of lead poisoning to our community.

Secondly, we are working with Environmental Health Watch to build on their work of engaging with community residents, homeowners, families, parents, and teachers who need to understand the risks of lead and to protect children against exposure. The launch of a marketing campaign—website, public information, and more can help make sure that this happens. Our aim is to reduce lead exposure in both rental properties and owner-occupied homes.

Thirdly, we are looking to housing experts Enterprise Community Partners to provide technical assistance around policy development, convening, and exploration of a Lead Safe Home Fund.

(Continued on Page 2)
Finally, we took study trips to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Healthy Homes conference, and the Rochester, New York, trip, where 30 Cleveland leaders went to school on how that city has achieved remarkable success.

Lead Safe Cleveland is rolling up its sleeves, ready to get the job done. Leading the way will be the Coalition’s initial standing committees, chaired by experienced, passionate leadership in our community:

- **Policy Committee** – led by **Enterprise Community Partners**
- **Community Engagement Committee** – led by **Environmental Health Watch**
- **Resources Development Committee** – led by **The George Gund Foundation**
- **Cleveland Lead Safe Summit Planning Committee** – led by **United Way of Greater Cleveland**
- **Governance Committee** – led by **The Mt. Sinai Foundation**

I should also mention that our emerging Coalition is a founder of the **National Funders Action Network on Lead Poisoning Prevention**, co-convened by Mt. Sinai Vice President Daniel Cohn, with several national funders, including the **Pew Charitable Trusts** and the **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation**. We hope to ensure that Cleveland figures prominently in these emerging national discussions.

At its December 3, 2018, quarterly Board meeting, the Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation approved a grant of $500,000 to the Jewish Federation of Cleveland to enhance security in the Cleveland Jewish community following the attack on Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh that killed 11 people.

“We applaud the Jewish Federation of Cleveland for being in the forefront of safety and security efforts both locally and nationally and for taking action to intensify its program as a result of the current anti-Semitism,” said Foundation President Mitchell Balk.

The Federation’s plan, developed with local and national security experts, will provide enhanced security for 37 synagogues and 9 day school sites, and 9 Jewish-sponsored preschools.

“In the face of the growing threat from anti-Semitism and in light of the attack in Pittsburgh, the need for increased security throughout Jewish Cleveland is no longer an option,” said Stephen H. Hoffman, former president of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland. “We are grateful for this significant investment and leadership by the Mt. Sinai Foundation, which will help our community members live as Jewishly as they wish in a safe and welcoming environment. We believe the Mt. Sinai commitment will encourage other generous donors to step forward in our effort to raise the $2 million per year that is required to implement the enhanced security program.”

Jewish Federation of Cleveland security patrol.
Dr. Markt earned her BS degree in Biological Sciences from Cornell University in 2005, conducting research in the Department of Plant Breeding and Genetics. After working for two years, she joined the Master of Public Health (MPH) program at the George Washington University. While completing her MPH in Epidemiology, she was also a Fellow of the Intramural Research Program of the National Cancer Institute, in the Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics. Her primary research focus was on human papillomavirus (HPV) and cervical cancer.

Dr. Markt continued her education at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health earning her ScD in Epidemiology in 2014, under the guidance of Dr. Lorelei Mucci, director of the Cancer Epidemiology Program at Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center. She continued her training at Harvard, under Dr. Mucci and Dr. Meir Stampfer, conducting her research fellowship in cancer epidemiology. During her fellowship, Dr. Markt was also a Visiting Scientist with the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Department of Genitourinary Oncology.

With her cross-disciplinary education and training, Dr. Markt’s research focus integrates molecular, lifestyle, and clinical epidemiology to study risk factors for and progression of cancer, with the primary goal to translate research findings into direct application for primary and secondary cancer prevention. She has successfully led multiple studies with transdisciplinary groups of epidemiologists, medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, urologists, pathologists, and biostatisticians.

Dr. Markt conducts translational research that integrates blood, urine, and tissue-based biomarkers with detailed epidemiological and clinical data to address an array of questions from cancer etiology, to progression, to survival.

Dr. Tajima earned her BS degree in Chemistry at Aoyama Gakuin University in Japan, and her PhD in molecular biology from Yokohama City University in 2011. Subsequent to earning her degree, Dr. Tajima joined the laboratory of Dr. Hiro Furukawa, PhD, of the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, to conduct her postdoctoral fellowship in structural studies of ion channels. During this fellowship, Dr. Tajima expanded her expertise in ion channel biophysics, structural biology, pharmacology, and electrophysiology.

Cell compartments are divided by lipid bilayers which selectively control what molecules enter and exit the cells. To transmit signals or transport small molecules and proteins across the membrane, cell use transporters, receptors, and ion channels. Within this field, Dr. Tajima is studying the fundamental mechanisms of neuroreceptors, sites on the surface of cells that are activated by the neurotransmitters in the brain. The neuroreceptors are involved in basic brain functions and neurological disorders such as Alzheimer’s disease, epilepsy and schizophrenia. In the brain, the neuroreceptors mediate neuron-to-neuron communication, referred to as a synaptic transmission, and regulate plasticity.

As she joins CWRU, Dr. Tajima will continue this important work to fully define the neuroreceptor signaling complexes and their networks. She will employ cutting-edge cryo-electron microscopy, innovative crystallization methods, proteomics electrophysiology, biochemistry, biophysics, and advanced imaging techniques in her work. Illuminating the neuroreceptor signaling complexes and networks will provide a better understanding of overall brain function, and holds the potential to reveal new therapeutic targets and other opportunities to treat disease.
FROM SANDY HOOK TO LAS VEGAS AND MOST RECENTLY PITTSBURGH, OUR COUNTRY HAS SUFFERED GREAT PAIN AND LOSS OF LIFE FROM MILITARY-STYLE ASSAULT WEAPONS IN CIVILIAN HANDS.

As a health grantmaker focused on primary prevention, the Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation recently adopted a position supporting a renewed ban on the possession, sale, and distribution of military-style assault weapons. Below is our policy statement. The deaths of hundreds, perhaps thousands, of innocent men, women, and children could have been prevented if the federal ban on assault weapons hadn’t been allowed to expire in 2004.

We invite the media, policymakers, and all those concerned about loss of innocent life to join the Foundation in calling for a federal ban on assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines.

Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation

Position Statement | Assault Weapons Ban

Background

More than 14,000 Americans are murdered annually by someone with a firearm, contributing to a gun homicide rate that is far higher than any other developed nation. The deadliest gun attacks of the past five decades have been massacres involving six or more fatalities, not including the perpetrator(s). Since 1966, gun massacres have claimed more than 900 lives. These extreme acts of violence now occur with greater frequency, over one-third of mass shootings during the last 50 years have occurred within the past decade.

According to a report commissioned by the U.S. Department of Justice, “semiautomatic weapons with high-capacity [ammunition] magazines” allow these types of attacks to occur because they “enable offenders to fire high numbers of shots rapidly, thereby increasing both the number of persons wounded per gunfire incident (including both intended targets and innocent bystanders) and the number of gunshot victims suffering multiple wounds, both of which increase deaths and injuries from gun violence.”

These massacres are preventable. C. Everett Koop, MD, Surgeon General under Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush, in 1992 referred to gun violence as a public health emergency. Two years later, Congress enacted the Public Safety and Recreational Firearms Use Protection Act (also known as “the Assault Weapons Ban”), aimed at reducing the incidence of mass shootings. This legislation was allowed to expire in 2004.

Private ownership of military-style assault weapons contributes to gun massacres. Reasonable laws, in compliance with the Second Amendment, must be passed to ban such weapons.

Assault Weapons Ban

The 30-year period spanning immediately before, during, and after the 1994 Assault Weapons Ban tells a compelling story of the legislation’s impact (see table below).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Frame</th>
<th>Number of Mass Shootings</th>
<th>Number of Deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1984-1994 (before ban)</td>
<td>19 incidents</td>
<td>155 deaths</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994-2004 (during ban)</td>
<td>12 incidents (37% decrease)</td>
<td>89 deaths (43% decrease)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004-2014 (after ban expired)</td>
<td>34 incidents (183% increase)</td>
<td>302 deaths (239% increase)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Following the implementation of the 1994 ban, the share of gun crimes involving assault weapons declined by as much as 72% in some localities. Moreover, on a scale of effectiveness of policies to prevent mass shootings, a panel of 32 gun policy experts rated bans on assault weapons and on high-capacity magazines highest among 29 policies surveyed in 2017. Alternatively, as recently as 2016, after the legislation’s expiration, one in four law enforcement officers slain in the line of duty was killed with an assault weapon.

Although the Foundation supports expanded access to high-quality mental health services, the evidence connecting increased services to reduced mass shootings is limited. The National Center for Health Statistics indicates that people diagnosed with mental illness perpetrated fewer than 5% of gun-related killings in the U.S. between 2001 and 2010. The connection between mental illness and violent behavior is similarly tenuous.
Call to Action

Since its inception, The Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation has supported public policies aimed at improving the health of Greater Cleveland residents. Reasonable gun control is one such set of policies.

The Foundation hereby expresses support for federal legislation that would make it illegal to knowingly import, sell, manufacture, transfer, or possess an assault weapon or high-capacity ammunition magazine. Short of a federal ban, the Foundation urges The State of Ohio to join California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, and Washington, D.C., in implementing an assault weapons ban at the state level.

With this position, the Foundation stands with other organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Bar Association, American Public Health Association, International Association of Chiefs of Police, National Education Association, National League of Cities, National PTA, and U.S. Conference of Mayors.

Susan Ratner

Board Chair

December 20, 2018

Mitchell Balk

President


4 Ibid

5 Ibid


11 Although there is no formal definition for the term mass shooting, these data describe gun incidents involving six or more fatalities, not including the perpetrator(s).


16 Ibid
Daniel Cohn, vice president, Strategy, was the recipient of Philanthropy Ohio’s Emerging Philanthropist Award at the organization’s annual educational conference in November 2018. Cohn was also honored for his service to the field of health education with an award from the Ohio Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.

• Director Ira C. Kaplan received the 2018 Gries Family Award of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland for outstanding service to both the Jewish and general communities of Cleveland.

• Director and Federal Judge Dan A. Polster received the 2018 Civic Leadership Award at the Cleveland Jewish News 18 Difference Makers event. Judge Polster is overseeing 1,500 cases related to the nation’s opioid epidemic.

• Board Chair Susan Ratner was named national co-chair of the Health and Long-term Care Committee of the Jewish Federations of North America. Director Beth W. Brandon was also appointed as a member of the Committee.

• Director Beth D. Rosenberg was elected Board Chair of Menorah Park Center for Senior Living

• Director Enid B. Rosenberg received the Humanitarian Award from the Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio.

• Director Donald S. Scherzer was named as a 2018 Difference Maker, sponsored by the Cleveland Jewish News.
RECENT GRANT AWARDS

SEPTEMBER AND DECEMBER 2018 GRANT AWARDS

ACADEMIC MEDICINE/BIOSCIENCE

Case Western Reserve University
$1,000 for the School of Medicine: Medical Student Doc Opera 2018

Case Western Reserve University
$150,000 over three years for the School of Dental Medicine: To Create the Mt. Sinai – Dr. Edward Reiter Craniofacial Orthodontic Fellowship

Community West Foundation
$2,871 for the 2018 Dr. Rudolph Reich Orthopaedic Lectureship

University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center
$550 for the Resident Awards
(Drs. Harold C. Klein & Willard Bernbaum Awards)

University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center
$1,250 for the Dr. William Herman Pediatric Lectureship (June 28, 2018)

HEALTH OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

Agudath Israel of Ohio (Gesher)
$45,335 for the Women and Senior Health Access Project

American Jewish Committee
$1,000 for the 2018 Richard H. Adler Community Leadership Award
(October 15, 2018) - Akram Boutros, MD

Bikur Cholim of Cleveland
$90,000 over three years to establish First-Ever Professional Office - Challenge Grant

Cleveland Hillel Foundation
$12,500 for the Summer Internship Program - Health and Human Services

Hebrew Academy of Cleveland
$38,549 for Early Childhood Behavioral Interventionists: Year Three

Hebrew Free Loan Association (HFLA)
$1,000 for the event honoring Saint Luke’s Foundation
(November 10, 2018)

Jewish Federation of Cleveland
$20,000 in honor of Stephen H. Hoffman

Jewish Federation of Cleveland
$500,000 Lead Grant for Jewish Community Security Expansion

Jewish Federation of Cleveland
$1,698,608 for the 2019 Campaign for Jewish Needs for Health Services

Jewish Learning Connection
$573 for Defibrillator Purchase

Montefiore
$1,250 for the Shining Star CLE 2018 (October 7, 2018)

The Cleveland Women’s Orchestra
$1,500 for the Orchestra’s Musical Concert Outreach Program to Residents of Long-Term Care at Menorah Park (2018-2019 Season)

HEALTH POLICY

Case Western Reserve University
$50,000 over 18 months for Applied Research to Prevent Childhood Lead Poisoning

Children’s Defense Fund-Ohio
$27,880 for Ohio Children’s Budget Coalition

Cleveland Leadership Center
$1,000 for Health Workshop Sponsorship at Leading for Change Conference
(August 16, 2018)

Cleveland State University
$1,000 for the In Tribute to Public Service event Honoring David Abbott
(October 30, 2018)

Community Initiatives (fiscal agent)
$2,500 for the Vote for Ohio Kids Campaign Leadership Forum

Community Initiatives (fiscal agent)
$150,000 over two years for Groundwork Ohio Policy Associate

Enterprise Community Partners, Inc.
$92,000 over two years for the Enterprise Lead Poisoning Prevention Initiative

Environmental Health Watch (EHW)
$145,050 over two years for Capacity Building for Safe and Healthy Housing

Health Policy Institute of Ohio
$450,000 over three years for Improving the Health and Well-being of Ohioans through Informed Policy Decisions

The Center for Community Solutions
$100,000 over two years for the AIDS Funding Collaborative Funding Partner Membership

UHCAN Ohio (Universal Health Care Access Network)
$40,000 for General Operating Support

United Labor Agency, Inc.
$10,000 for Senior Voice! Speakers Bureau - Coalition Advocating for Senior Health Issues

OTHER

Foundation Center - Midwest
$3,500 for Strengthening the Social Sector through the Promotion of Philanthropy

Grantmakers In Aging
$3,100 for 2019 Annual Membership

Grantmakers In Health
$12,500 for 2018 Funding Partner Program
RECENT GRANT AWARDS

SEPTEMBER AND DECEMBER 2018 GRANT AWARDS

HEALTH OF THE URBAN COMMUNITY

Asian Services in Action, Inc. (ASIA, Inc.)
$500 in honor of Michael Byun (November 16, 2018)

Care Alliance Health Center
$50,000 for Advancing the Patient-Centered Medical Home Model

Circle Health Services (formerly Free Medical Clinic)
$500 in Memory of Victor Gelb

Asian Services in Action, Inc. (ASIA, Inc.)
$500 in honor of Michael Byun (November 16, 2018)

Care Alliance Health Center
$50,000 for Advancing the Patient-Centered Medical Home Model

Circle Health Services (formerly Free Medical Clinic)
$500 in Memory of Victor Gelb

Cleveland Metropolitan School District
$1,000 for the 11th Annual Army of Believers Scholarship Luncheon (August 3, 2018)

Cuyahoga County Public Library
$54,989 over 1.5 years for the Baby Club Expansion

Eliza Bryant Village
$10,000 for Strategic Planning Support

Front Steps Housing and Services
$50,000 for the Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) for the Chronically Homeless with Addiction

FrontLine Service
$2,500 for Support of Camp Bridges for Urban Kids who have Witnessed Violence

Greater Cleveland Neighborhood Centers Association (GCNCA)
$50,000 for ICONNECT Virtual Senior Center

Lifebanc
$20,000 for ¡Hacia la Salud! Outreach to the Hispanic Community

MedWish
$1,000 for MedWish Celebrating 25 Years (October 27, 2018)

MetroHealth System
$78,618 over two years for the Food as Medicine Pilot Program

Milestones Autism Resources
$100,000 over two years for Meeting the Growing Need for Autism-Related Services

National Council on Problem Gambling
$1,600 for the 32nd National Conference on Problem Gambling in Cleveland

Neighborhood Family Practice
$500 for the NFP Benefit Honoring Leah S. Gary (August 18, 2018)

Neighborhood Family Practice
$76,411 for Neighborhood Family Practice Expansion Project

Northeast Ohio Black Health Coalition
$1,000 for the State of Health Disparities Conference (August 18, 2018)

PA.L.S. for Healing
$5,000 for Trauma Prevention Programming for Children

Providence House, Inc.
$10,000 for CARF Reaccreditation

Senior Transportation Connection of Cuyahoga County
$5,000 for Celebrating Connections event (October 4, 2018)

The Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio
$1,000 for the 64th Annual Humanitarian Award Dinner (November 28, 2018)

Towards Employment
$10,000 to Strengthen and Build Case Management Capacity to Provide Trauma-Informed Care to Participants

Formed as a result of the 1996 sale of Cleveland’s Mt. Sinai Medical Center and related hospitals, The Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation assists Greater Cleveland’s organizations and leaders improve the health and well-being of the Jewish and general communities now and for generations to come. At September 30, 2018, the Foundation’s assets exceeded $155 million.

www.mtsinaifoundation.org
The Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation expresses its sincere appreciation to its friends and supporters for their many generous contributions. In addition to honoring or remembering loved ones, gifts to the various funds help to improve the health status of the Greater Cleveland community through the Foundation’s grantmaking.

CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED BETWEEN AUGUST 1, 2018 AND JANUARY 31, 2019

SPECIAL GIFTS

Dr. William Herman Pediatric Lectureship Fund
In Memory of Dr. William Herman
    Marilyn H. and Mitchel S. Ross

CONTRIBUTIONS

Marjorie & Jerome M. Besuner Cancer Fund
In Honor of Abby Dawn Elmudesi
In Memory of Harold “Buddy” Cohen, Marjorie E. Besuner, Steve Edward Blumenthal, Arnold L. Soroky
    Marsha J. Besuner Klausner

The Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation General Fund
In Honor of Robert S. Reitman
    Mr. and Mrs. Keith Libman
In Memory of Geraldine “Gerrie” Abraham
    Bernard Abraham
In Memory of Tom Gavin
    Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Reitman

FOUNDATIONS & TRUSTS

The Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation is pleased to acknowledge that the following philanthropic distributions were recently received.

    * Dr. Hans J. and Betty Rubin Trust

    Lewis Miller Memorial Fund of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland

For further information, contact the Foundation office at 216-421-5500 or visit the Foundation’s website at www.MtSinaiFoundation.org.

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FOUNDATION NEWS

A CELEBRATION OF SCHOLARS

2019 ANNUAL MEETING • TUESDAY, JUNE 11 at 5:15 PM
SEVERANCE HALL - REINBERGER CHAMBER HALL

Election of Officers and Directors • Presentation of the 2019 Maurice Saltzman Award
• Tribute to Outgoing Board Chair Susan Ratner

MARKING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
MT. SINAI HEALTH CARE FOUNDATION SCHOLARS PROGRAM AT
CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

The first Mt. Sinai Scholar, Ben Strowbridge, PhD

For further information, contact the Foundation office at 216.421.5500 or visit the Foundation’s website at www.MtSinaiFoundation.org.