We in the Black community know, better than anyone else, the need for gun control. Day in and day out, we are dealing with deaths by guns be it among violent criminals, within domestic relations, and even from trigger-happy police officers.

We’ve buried and is still burying far too many of our own as a result of gun violence. As of Dec. 9, Chicago has logged 478 gun related deaths this year. Our neighboring city of Akron, with a population of less than 200,000 has even seen 24.

Many of these victims are either poor, black, or both.

Guns are, have been, out of control for a long time as it’s easier to buy an assault rifle than a pistol while many can be purchased at local gun shows with no background at all. And, that’s not including the guns bought in back allies on the Black market. Then, on top of that, The National Rifle Association (NRA) remains one of the biggest lobbyists in Washington.

And, we’ve been begging, pleading for years for legislation to help get guns off the streets.

But now, with the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in Newton, Connecticut – a predominately white community where the medium salary is $100,000 – leaving 26 dead including the perpetrator, some seemingly sincere discussion about gun control immediately resurfaced after a near decade long hiatus.

Finally! That’s great! But what’s sadder than this particular tragedy is it took this senseless lost of life to spark dialogue on a national level – almost as if the lives of the young Black men who has went to an early grave, the victimized students in school shootings, the innocent people who patronized malls and movie theatres when some lunatic opens fire never really mattered.

Please… don’t get us wrong. This is far from a race issue, not trying to make it such. Losing the lives of 18 very young, innocent children is enough to pull the heart strings of anyone with an ounce of concern. This is the second worst school shooting in U.S. History. All we are saying is

it should’ve never had to come to this.