

# REQUEST FOR POLICY CONSIDERATION

**Date: March 19, 2018**

**Agenda Item Number: 8**

**Council Meeting Date: March 26, 2018**

**Introduced by: Deputy Mayor Matt LaVere  
Councilmember Cheryl Heitmann  
Councilmember Erik Nasarenko**

**Subject: Gun Control**

## **Requested Action:**

It is recommended that the City Council urge Congress to do more to address the number of deaths and injuries from gun violence, and that the City Council:

1. Support stronger Federal gun control legislation.
2. Request Congress to provide the Center for Disease Control the necessary funding and political freedom to study gun violence.
3. Oppose Federal legislation that weakens California's ability to enforce its own stricter gun protections and legislation.
4. Direct the Interim City Manager or his designee to communicate the Council's position to our elected representatives.

## **Issue/Idea Concern:**

Since Jan 3, 2018 there have been 18 incidents of gun related incidents on school campuses across the United States, including the most recent at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, which resulted in the death of 17 people. During a typical year in the US, 75 preschoolers are shot dead and we can never forget the massacre of 20 first graders and 6 staff members at Sandy Hook Elementary School.

Although gun control is a divisive issue in our country there is wide agreement on some basic protections. Ninety six percent of Americans agree there should be background checks for gun buyers; 89% agree the mentally ill should be prevented from buying guns and 88% agree those convicted of violent crimes should be banned from purchasing guns.

Yet with all of the gun violence, the Center for Disease Control has been stymied by Congress in its attempt to fund research on the causes and possible cures of this deadly epidemic. Many Americans see gun violence and its effect on children in particular as a public health emergency. Further, gun suicides account for two thirds of the 33,000 firearm deaths annually; a public health emergency exists between readily available guns in the home and those who, tragically, use those guns to take their own lives.

Although California has enacted stricter gun protections, residents of California remain at increased risk of gun violence from people driving across the border from other states with lax regulations. In December 2017, the House passed a bill that allows gun owners to carry concealed weapons across state lines. Our elected representatives need to do more at the federal level to protect the people of California and especially our children.

Therefore, the request to the Council is to urge Congress to do more to address the number of deaths and injuries from gun violence by passing legislation to:

1. Support stronger Federal gun control legislation including:

- Ban all modifications that make a semi-automatic gun work like an automatic gun.
- Ban military-style assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines for good.
- Conduct background checks for all gun buyers, including eliminating the gun show loophole.
- Ban the sale of guns to people convicted of violent crimes, including domestic violence.
- Prevent the mentally ill from buying guns. Specifically urge congressional leaders to support re-imposing a requirement that the Social Security Administration submit records of mentally disabled people to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, the FBI database used to determine eligibility for gun purchases.
- Mandate waiting period on all gun purchases.

2. Request Congress to provide the Center for Disease Control the necessary funding and political freedom to study gun violence.
3. Oppose Federal legislation that weakens California's ability to enforce its own stricter gun protections and legislation.
4. Direct the Interim City Manager or his designee to communicate the Council's position to our elected representatives.