

11-0109
Refer to CF 11-0002-S4

Rule 16
PUBLIC SAFETY

MOTION

CITY CLERK FOR PLACEMENT: CITY NEXT

#52

A recent series of incidents involving gun violence in California and Arizona has placed a renewed focus on the public safety threat posed by easy access and exposure to guns.

JAN 21 2011

In the past week, there have been three shootings in or in the vicinity of local schools. On January 18, 2011, a Gardena High School student's gun discharged in a classroom injuring two students. On January 19, 2011, a gunman shot a school police officer near El Camino High School triggering a large scale lockdown of neighboring schools. That same day, a Bell High School student was shot as he was walking home from school. In addition, the recent shooting at a meet-and-greet outside an Arizona grocery store that left six people dead and 13 wounded has also contributed to a growing concern about gun access and exposure.

This surge in gun violence is alarming and requires the immediate attention of lawmakers. Currently, California has an "open carry" law that allows state residents to carry a firearm as long as it is unloaded and kept in a holster. However, the open carry of a handgun is intimidating to the public and can create a public safety threat because ammunition may be kept on the holster. In addition, open carry is a drain on the resources of police officers who must check to ensure that these guns are unloaded in accordance with state law.

Efforts to ban the open carry of unloaded handguns are already underway at the state level. Assemblyman Anthony Portantino has introduced a new bill, AB 144, that would prohibit the open carry of handguns in public places. This bill has received widespread support from the California Police Chiefs Association, the Peace Officers Research Association of California, the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, and Women Against Gun Violence.

An open carry ban in the City would serve the greater good by limiting the public's exposure to firearms and conserving already strained police officer resources.

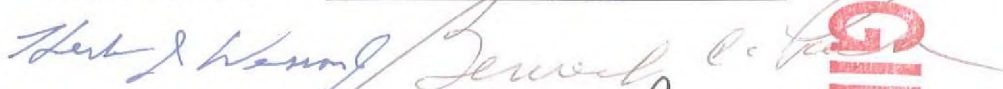
I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Attorney be requested to report on the feasibility and legality of banning the open carry of handguns in the City.

PRESENTED BY:



ERIC GARCETTI
Councilmember, 13th District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL

January 21, 2011

EG