



NATIONAL SHOOTING SPORTS FOUNDATION, INC.

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TREVOR SANTOS
MANAGER, GOVERNMENT
RELATIONS/STATE AFFAIRS

July 7, 2015

Los Angeles Public Safety Committee
City Hall Office
200 N. Spring St., Room 1010
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Council File No. 14-1553: Proper Storage of Firearms - OPPOSE

Dear Public Safety Committee Members:

On behalf of the National Shooting Sports Foundation, I write to you today to express our opposition to Council File No. 14-1553 ("the Propose Ordinance"). The Proposed Ordinance would amend the Los Angeles Municipal Code to require handguns within a residence to be "*stored in a locked container or disabled with a trigger lock...*" There is no basis upon which to justify the enactment of the Proposed Ordinance, especially given the fact that it will decrease public safety.

As the trade association for America's firearms, ammunition, hunting, and recreational shooting sports industry, the National Shooting Sports Foundation ("NSSF") seeks to promote, protect, and preserve hunting and the shooting sports. NSSF has a membership of nearly 13,000 manufacturers, distributors, firearms retailers, shooting ranges, and sportsmen's organizations. Our manufacturer members make the firearms used by law-abiding California sportsmen, the U.S. military and law enforcement agencies throughout the state.

Before I address our substantive concerns with the ordinance, NSSF would like to take a moment to call to your attention the positive downward trend in accidental deaths involving firearms. Firearms-related fatalities in the U.S. have been decreasing consistently since record keeping began in 1903 and dramatically in the last 20 years to a century-long low. In fact, over the last twenty years (1993 – 2013), the number of unintentional firearm-related fatalities involving children 14 years of age and under has decreased by 66%¹ as a result of firearm safety efforts by the firearms industry, such as the industry-supported *Project ChildSafe*®, and the educational and safety programs of groups like the National Rifle Association, 4-H and the Boy Scouts of America, among others. Firearms are involved in less than 0.39% of all accidental deaths in the United States.

NSSF does not believe that a city or state has the right to tell law-abiding gun owners the proper way to store their firearms. This should be an individual's choice based upon his or her living arrangements. The decision in *District of Columbia v. Heller* struck down storage requirements as being unconstitutional.

¹ *Injury Facts*, National Safety Council's Injury Facts, 2015

The firearms industry and law-abiding gun owners in California continue to be the most heavily regulated population in the nation. California residents are required to comply with the nation's most stringent set of rules and regulations governing the lawful commerce of firearms. The financial burden that is created with each new measure makes it increasingly more difficult for law-abiding retailers to continue their livelihood, create jobs and tax revenue for the state. The Proposed Ordinance, like many before, will do nothing to decrease violent crime in the city.

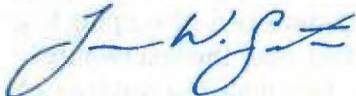
If your intent is to curb firearm violence, in lieu of adopting an ineffective and burdensome ordinance, we suggest another route which everyone supports. NSSF for years has been sponsoring programs to reduce gun violence and accidents, and partnering the Department of Justice (DOJ) on a number of effective programs that assist law enforcement in combating the misuse of firearms by criminals and safety. *Project ChildSafe*® (www.projectchildsafe.org) is the nation's largest and most comprehensive firearms safety program.

Project ChildSafe® promotes the safe handling and storage of firearms by providing free firearm safety kits and safety educational materials to gun owners through partnerships with 15,000 law enforcement agencies nationwide. This program, funded by the Department of Justice (DOJ) - Office of Justice Programs (OJP) and firearms and shooting sports industry members through NSSF, is designed to help prevent tragic firearms-related accidents, particularly among children.

Project ChildSafe® has formed partnerships with law enforcement agencies in every state in the country, plus elected officials such as governors, lieutenant governors, mayors, U.S. attorneys, hunter education teachers, and concerned civic groups, all of whom help advance the program's message and distribute firearm safety kits to gun owners across America. Since its inception, approximately 37,000,000 *Project ChildSafe*® safety kits have been distributed nationwide, establishing *Project ChildSafe*® as a leading go-to resource for firearm safety. Additionally, program partners used press conferences and other media outreach to achieve a broader public awareness about the importance of safe handling and storage of firearms in the home.

The National Shooting Sports Foundation opposes the Propose Ordinance because it will only serve to increase the regulatory burden on law-abiding firearms owners without benefiting public safety.

Sincerely,



Trevor W. Santos
Manager of Government Relations - State Affairs
National Shooting Sports Foundation