



COUNCILMEMBER
MITCH O'FARRELL
LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL, 13TH DISTRICT

October 1, 2018

Councilmember Paul Krekorian
Chair, Budget and Finance Committee
Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Council File 18-0896

Dear Councilmember Krekorian,

Thank you for hearing this item on the anniversary of the worst mass shooting in United States history, which happened during an outdoor concert in Las Vegas on October 1, exactly one year ago today, killing 58 people, and wounding 489. Since the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in December of 2012, there have been more than 1,600 mass shootings in the United States. So far this year, there have been over 200 mass shootings.

The road block to gun safety legislation across the United States is the National Rifle Association. Although gun safety legislation has been enacted by some individual states, especially here in California, the NRA's lock on Congress and the Senate is such that no gun safety legislation has been enacted at the Federal level since 1994 with the assault weapons ban. That ban expired in 2004.

There is a clear distinction between the activities of the NRA leadership and their membership of roughly 5 million. According to a Monmouth Poll this past March, 69% of NRA members support stricter gun laws. However, their extremist leadership lobbies for easy access to firearms, no background checks anywhere, no ban on bump stocks, no limits on magazine capacity, no regulation of assault weapons, no mandatory training, and no age restrictions. And - according to an NRA spokesperson, free, downloadable 3-D printed guns symbolize, "freedom and innovation."

The NRA leadership ramped up their policy agenda of arming teachers everywhere across the country in all schools and college campuses after the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida this past February.

The bulk of NRA funding comes in the form of contributions, grants, royalties, and advertising, much of it originating from gun industry sources according to Business Insider Magazine. Membership dues haven't funded the bulk of their operations for quite some time. Naturally, they want to put more guns in the hands of more people. They stand to profit from this agenda. The NRA leadership promotes extremist propaganda and violence against the media, along with other conspiratorial ranting's from various hosts and guests on their broadcast channel - NRATV.

Mr. Chair and colleagues, we currently and righteously have disclosure ordinances in place with our bureau of Contract Administration for Border Wall contracting, and for those businesses that have a history of investment or profits from slavery prior to 1865. The outsized role the NRA plays with their reckless and destructive agenda of guns everywhere without regulation of any kind, results in incalculable losses of life, the destruction of families, and devastating financial costs that we all collectively pay for. I am calling for the same transparency with regard to the activities of the NRA in relation to any entities we do business with. I hope to have your support in this effort and am certain that the residents of Los Angeles would be interested in having this information available to them as well.

With kind regards,

MITCH O'FARRELL
Councilmember, 13th District
City of Los Angeles
Los Angeles City Council

MOTION

According to the Gun Violence Archive, since the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in December 2012, there have been more than 1,600 mass shootings. In 2018 alone, there have been over 200 mass shooting incidents.

Research compiled by Everytown for Gun Safety show that on average, 96 Americans are killed with guns on a daily basis, while hundreds more are injured. The effects of gun violence extend far beyond these casualties.

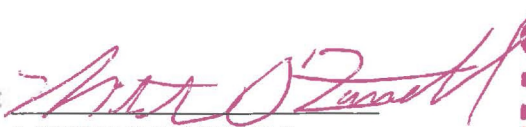
The National Rifle Association (NRA) has been one of the most significant roadblocks to sensible gun safety reform at every level of government across the nation. In Congress, next to nothing has been done due to the NRA's stranglehold and propaganda machine. According to an audit obtained by the Center for Responsive Politics, the NRA's spending on political activities from 1998-2017 aggregated to over \$200 million.

The City of Los Angeles has historically enacted ordinances and adopted positions that support and promote gun safety and gun safety legislation.

For the sake of transparency, the City's residents and stakeholders deserve to know how the City's public funds are being spent, and whether taxpayer funds are being spent on contractors that have contractual or sponsorship ties with the NRA. An ordinance should be drafted and modeled after existing disclosure requirements like the Border Wall Contracts Disclosure and the Slavery Disclosure ordinances.

I THEREFORE MOVE, that the City Council REQUEST the City Attorney, with the assistance of the Bureau of Contract Administration, to prepare and present an ordinance directing any prospective contractor with the City of Los Angeles to disclose, under affidavit: (1) any contracts it or any of its subsidiaries has with the National Rifle Association; and (2) any sponsorship it or any of its subsidiaries provides to the National Rifle Association.

PRESENTED BY:



MITCH O'FARRELL
Councilmember, 13th District

SECONDED BY:



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