

MOTION

PUBLIC SAFETY

There have been many tragic incidents involving guns and shootings in the State of California. In the early hours of Saturday morning, July 27, a young Police Department (LAPD) officer was killed in a crowded public setting, with potentially hundreds of people in the vicinity. The very next day, a mass shooting in the city of Gilroy saw three individuals murdered, two of them youth under the age of 18, with the use of an assault rifle that was purchased out of state. Early reports indicate that the weapon used in Gilroy was either a modified SKS rifle or a WASR-10 semi-automatic rifle - both of which would have been illegal to own in California.

The City of Los Angeles and the State of California have some of the most stringent gun control measures in the United States. Individuals are generally barred from owning assault weapons, and magazine size limits ensure that no high capacity magazines are sold in the state. In addition, every person seeking to purchase a firearm must submit to a background check and wait ten days before receiving a firearm. Further, the City of Los Angeles requires handguns to be securely stored when not in use. Despite these rules, the City still has a significant problem with gun violence, as evidenced by the recent tragic death of Officer Juan Diaz.

One contributing factor to this problem may be the ability to easily purchase or steal firearms in neighboring states and then transport them into California. The shooting in Gilroy was carried out with a weapon purchased in Nevada. Other states, like Arizona, for example, allows any person over 21 years of age to carry a concealed firearm without a permit. Many states have no requirements for safe storage of firearms, which makes firearms vulnerable to theft.

The LAPD currently tracks weapons to a certain degree, oftentimes making use of limited federal and state resources. To better protect the residents of Los Angeles, the LAPD should be directed to report on the number of firearms recovered by its officers, as well as the origin of these weapons and other important data on an ongoing basis. The Department should also work to assist Council in identifying improvements to State and Federal law which make sense for the residents of Los Angeles and the State of California.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Police Department (LAPD) be directed to report on its ability to identify and track confiscated firearms in the City, including but not limited to: the number of firearms seized, registration status, and whether weapons recovered are otherwise legal under California law.

I FURTHER MOVE that the LAPD be directed to report annually on the types of firearms sized in the City, including the number of firearms seized and the number of weapons recovered that originated outside of California.

PRESENTED BY:


MITCH O'FARRELL

Councilmember, 13th District

SECONDED BY:




ORIGINAL