

MOTION

PUBLIC SAFETY

Although we may be becoming numb to mass shootings because of their frequency, it is clear that such events have spun out of control in our country and our state. In this year, we have averaged more than one a day in the United States, with the most notable recent ones taking place in Gilroy, California, Dayton, Ohio and El Paso, Texas.

After each mass shooting that gets noticed enough to be covered by the media, President Trump and others in a position to impact this continual parade of deaths express their concern and offer prayers for the victims, if that. Ironically, Mr. Trump's xenophobia seems to have inspired a white Isis, willing to accept a great possibility of their own deaths in return for the opportunity to kill those who are brown, or black, or Muslims, or Jews, or immigrants, or whomever has gotten their attention as the most prominent target for their individual hate.

The State of California has enacted some of the strictest gun control measures in the United States, but residents of the state are not immune to the gun violence that plagues the rest of the country. The shooting at the Poway synagogue by a white supremacist, the shooting of Nipsey Hussle in front of his store on Crenshaw Avenue, and the shooting of festivalgoers at the Gilroy Garlic Festival are three of the most recent noticeable acts of gun violence in California, but they are far from alone. Each year, hundreds of Californians lose their lives due to gun violence.

In an effort to limit gun violence, the state has enacted a number of gun laws, including an assault weapons ban. The state considers semi-automatic rifles with detachable magazines and other distinct military-style features, as well as other types of weapons defined in the California Penal Code as assault weapons. It is generally illegal to manufacture, import or sell assault weapons in the state. However, their possession is not prohibited, and those that have legally acquired assault weapons are allowed to do so as long as the weapon is registered with the state. These weapons serve no purpose other than killing, and their possession should be banned in the City. While such a ban would not halt every mass shooting, those committed without such weapons would result in considerable less carnage, and in all likelihood many would not be attempted.

Although our ability to prevail in the courts on the issue of banning possession of assault weapons is questionable, our choice to not take dramatic action in Los Angeles is not an adequate alternative. A number of years ago, West Hollywood and Los Angeles passed ordinances banning Saturday-Night Special handguns. City attorneys in both cities advised that these were certain to be overturned in the courts. However, our cities prevailed at every level.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Attorney be requested to prepare and present an ordinance to prohibit the possession of assault weapons within the City of Los Angeles.

Presented by:   
PAUL KORETZ  
Councilmember, 5<sup>th</sup> District

Seconded by: 

AUG 06 2019



ORIGINAL