

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal government body or agency must have been first adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, we as a nation are mourning the senseless murders of 31 more people due to mass shootings in the United States just this past weekend, which brings the total number of victims to 62 this year alone; and

WHEREAS, it is time we come together as Angelenos, and as Americans to demand that the Federal Government as well as the State of California put aside the political divisions that have separated the American people from the government for too long on the issue of gun control; and

WHEREAS, it has been the standard of political discussion in America for over three decades that the loud voices of the NRA and other political organizations have silenced the voices of the American people; and

WHEREAS, the demand for sensible and thorough gun control legislation has been met time and time again with marginal fixes and it is time for a complete ban on assault weapons, high capacity magazines and modification kits intended to convert semi-automatic weapons into effectively automatic weapons; and

WHEREAS, Federal and State legislation must be passed that would establish a substantial mandatory minimum prison sentence for the possession, use, or sale of any of these weapons or conversion kits; and

WHEREAS, California voters overwhelmingly passed proposition 63 in 2016 which requires ammunition dealers to run a potential buyer's ID through the state's Automated Firearms System, which then denies the purchase of ammunition if the potential buyer is prohibited to do so; and

WHEREAS, the federal government should enact a national policy modeling California's background check on ammunition purchases; and

WHEREAS, the internet has revolutionized communications by providing a forum where any individual can access and share information and opinions globally and these digital commons provide an important space for dissent and underrepresented views to be heard and discussed, and they also provide unrestricted opportunities for radicalized, violent individuals and domestic terrorists to organize and gain the notoriety that is inherent to the motivation of many mass shootings; and

WHEREAS, the perpetrators of recent mass shootings have often left a digital paper trail that has signaled their radicalization and criminal intent on social media networks; and

WHEREAS, these social media networks are privately owned properties using a service that falls under FCC regulation, and so it is time the federal government establish minimum standards for social networks that respects freedom of speech but prevents communities promoting hate speech and violence from organizing and attracting new followers; and

WHEREAS, failure to adhere to standards of monitoring and reporting on such activity should result in fines against the hosting network and in cases of repeated or flagrant violations, court ordered dissolution of the network and prosecution as an accessory to crime; and

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WHEREAS, social media providers have repeatedly protected their right to control their sites, and this is often at the detriment of the greater public at large; and

WHEREAS, protecting access to public commons has always required balancing individual freedom against community interest, but the current regulatory framework of the digital commons is far too permissive of hate speech, incitement, and threats to public safety which ultimately undermines the public access that we are duty-bound to protect; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America has always protected the freedom of speech exemplified in the reporting of news, it is time that the national news media also take some responsibility for making such evil acts attractive to potential perpetrators; and

WHEREAS, it is time to strongly request for media outlets not to publish the names of any person involved, killed or arrested for the commission or planning of a mass casualty event as well as refraining from publishing any manifesto created by these perpetrators; and

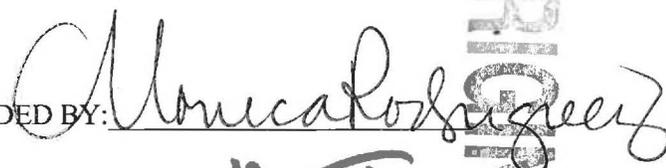
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2019-2020 Federal and State Legislative Programs SUPPORT for and/or SPONSORSHIP of legislation that would ban the sale, possession or use of any assault weapon as well as the sale, possession, or use of any modification kit that would effectively turn a semi-automatic weapon into an automatic one as well as a national policy which requires a background check for ammunition purchases; and

NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2019-2020 Federal and State Legislative Programs SUPPORT for and/or SPONSORSHIP of legislation that would establish minimum standards for online social networks that would require the administrators of the network to remove and/or block any hate speech and/or violent content that may be accessible via their networks.

PRESENTED BY: 
GREIG SMITH
Councilmember, 12th District

PRESENTED BY: 
HERB J. WESSON, JR.
Councilmember, 10th District



SECONDED BY: 



ORIGINAL