

RESOLUTION NO. 2018 - 043

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELMONT STRENGTHENING OUR COMMITMENT TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND SUPPORTING COMPREHENSIVE ACTION BY THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS AND THE CALIFORNIA STATE LEGISLATURE TO PRIORITIZE THE PROTECTION OF ALL PEOPLE FROM GUN VIOLENCE AND ADDRESS ITS ROOT CAUSES

WHEREAS, the City of Belmont places the highest priority on public safety and protecting its people; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Belmont emphasizes public safety in its adopted Vision Statement; and,

WHEREAS, ongoing gun violence has increasingly affected our nation's communities and schools, a product of a complex set of issues, including but not limited to insufficient resources for mental health services, substance abuse treatment programs, domestic violence programs, and suicide prevention; and,

WHEREAS, gun violence is a major cause of death and injury in the United States, killing an average of 36,252 people annually, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and injuring more than 73,000 each year; and,

WHEREAS, 1.4 million people have been killed by firearms in our nation in the last 50 years, more than twice as many as the number of U.S. service members killed in combat in all wars in the history of our country; and,

WHEREAS, gun injuries and death disproportionately affect communities of color victimized by firearm violence. Nationwide, a black man is fourteen times more likely than a white non-Hispanic man to be shot to death; and,

WHEREAS, more than 150,000 students have experienced a shooting on their campuses since the Columbine High School massacre in 1999; and,

WHEREAS, police officers and other first responders have suffered trauma and grave losses; and the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) and the National Law Enforcement Memorial Fund advocate for the adoption of common sense policies to assist in reducing gun violence; and,

WHEREAS, we value the safety of law enforcement officers across the country, and confrontations with those using high powered and illegal firearms can unnecessarily endanger their safety and lives; and,

WHEREAS, we must foster a safe, nurturing environment for our children in our schools and for all people in our public spaces; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Belmont acknowledges the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution giving the right of people to keep and bear arms; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Belmont has and will continue to offer and expand its gun safety programs that will help educate lawful gun owners; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Belmont wishes to add its voice in advocating for common sense solutions that will help break the cycle of gun violence.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Belmont resolves as follows:

SECTION 1. The City of Belmont urges the United States Congress and the California State Legislature to prioritize the protection of all people, to adopt and maintain common sense gun reform laws and to address its root causes, including:

- (a) background checks on all gun purchases, including private sales online and at gun shows;
- (b) prohibiting high-capacity magazines that hold more than 10 rounds;
- (c) prohibiting the sale of armor-piercing ammunition;
- (d) eliminating “gun show” loopholes;
- (e) reinstating the ban on assault weapons (such as AR-15s and AK-47s), and ban bump stocks;
- (f) properly funding programs for mental health, substance abuse treatment, domestic violence prevention, and suicide prevention;
- (g) support gun violence prevention programs and public health research on firearms-related issues;
- (h) approve “red flag” laws to empower family members and law enforcement to seek court orders restricting access to guns when someone poses a danger;
- (i) heightened regulation of gun ownership for those convicted of hate crimes or domestic abuse;
- (j) allowing local governments to enact common sense local gun policies when deemed necessary for public safety and oppose all efforts to restrict cities’ right to access, use, and share trace data that is essential to effective enforcement, or to intervene with the ability of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives to combat illegal gun trafficking;
- (k) urging continued research into gun safety technology such as fingerprint technology;
- (l) hold accountable irresponsible gun dealers who knowingly break the law by selling guns to “straw purchasers”; and
- (m) Work to develop and use technologies that aid in the detection and tracing of illegal guns.

ADOPTED May 22, 2018, by the City of Belmont City Council by the following vote:

Ayes: Hurt, Stone, Mates, Kim

Absent: Lieberman