

Advancing Effective Strategies to Prevent Mass Shootings in Los Angeles County

Our country continues to experience an unprecedented and tragic number of mass shootings, with the most recent taking place in Gilroy, El Paso, and Dayton over the past week. These events leave communities feeling terrified and vulnerable, especially given the racist and anti-immigrant motivations underlying many of them. We extend our deepest sympathies to those who have lost their loved ones, and recognize that as a County, we need to do more to prevent what are becoming all-too-common events of domestic terrorism.

Experts working to prevent mass shootings have identified common traits of mass shooters. These include: experiencing trauma and exposure to violence at a young age; studying other shooters and seeking validation for their motives; reaching an identifiable crisis point in the time leading up to the shooting; and having the means to carry out plans to commit a mass shooting. With this information on potential risk factors, we can take steps to move toward preventing these tragedies through interventions aimed at assisting both individuals and communities, instead of limiting our focus to preparedness and response.

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MOTION

SOLIS _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

KUEHL _____

BARGER _____

HAHN _____

This Board of Supervisors has previously taken action to build our capacity as a County to address gun violence in our communities, most recently through the creation of the Office of Violence Prevention. Now, to prevent gun violence, combat the root causes underlying the violence, and address the very real fear in our vulnerable communities, we must enhance our response to these threats by identifying and implementing prevention strategies for violence.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

Direct the Department of Public Health (DPH) to convene the Office of Violence Prevention Leadership Team and the Community Partnership Council, which are comprised of County and community stakeholders, respectively, to identify prevention strategies that can be implemented to prevent horrific acts of violence, focusing on schools, workplaces, places of worship, and public spaces, and report back in 60 days.

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HLS:jvall