

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS JANICE HAHN
AND HILDA L. SOLIS

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Requiring County Firearms Vendors to be in Compliance with Applicable Laws and Regulations

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board) has taken strides to end gun violence and get dangerous firearms off the street in Los Angeles County. The Board has taken multiple approaches to accomplish this mission, including by amending the County code to limit certain types of gun purchases and sales, hosting gun buybacks so community members can turn in guns they no longer want, and providing gunlocks to County residents for free. After discovering that the Los Angeles County Probation Department planned to auction hundreds of guns to firearm dealers in January 2023, the Board approved a motion to prohibit all County departments from auctioning or selling excess firearms or ammunition. While the County now has this policy in place to ensure it is not contributing to the number of guns going out into the community, there is also a need to ensure that the firearms purchased by various County departments come from firearms dealers that are in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.

A recent [report](#) from Brady revealed that millions of California taxpayer dollars are spent by government agencies on guns and ammunition procured from federal firearm

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SOLIS	_____
MITCHELL	_____
HAHN	_____
BARGER	_____
HORVATH	_____

licensees (FFLs) that are in violation of firearms laws and/or regulations. The data shows that at least 67 California law enforcement agencies purchase guns from FFLs that violated firearms laws and have subsequently been cited by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF). One FFL that has sold over \$18 million worth of firearms and ammunition across the State was cited for failing to submit sales reports, selling guns to customers who indicated they were not the actual buyer (e.g. “straw purchasers”), and failing to properly follow procedures to ensure prohibited purchasers are unable to buy guns. This is concerning and has real implications on gun violence and public safety. Research shows a correlation between an FFL’s violation of firearms laws and the likelihood that a gun purchased from that vendor is recovered in a crime. Of the gun dealers that supplied almost 60% of crime guns nationwide, 75% had violated federal law. Conversely, there is evidence that when FFLs comply with firearms laws, there is a reduction in gun trafficking and gun-related crime.

The County must hold firearms dealers to a high standard and require prospective contractors to confirm and attest that they are in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations. The Board can and should develop and implement a Countywide process that ensures that County departments only purchase firearms from licensed firearm vendors who are in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations and have not been cited with ongoing or serious violations.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE, that the Board of Supervisors:

Direct the Internal Services Department (ISD) and other relevant County Departments to develop a process to require firearm vendors seeking to sell firearms to Los Angeles County to certify under penalty of perjury that they are in compliance with all applicable

federal, state, and local firearms laws and regulations and that they have not been cited for repeated or serious violations. ISD shall report back to the Board in 90 days with the proposed process.

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JH: kc/cc