

February 07, 2023

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS JANICE HAHN  
AND HILDA L. SOLIS**

**Establishing Ordinances to Enhance Gun Regulation in Los Angeles County**

Gun violence continues to plague Los Angeles County (County) communities, tearing families apart and spreading trauma that will last for generations. Most recently, the County experienced its deadliest mass shooting in history when a gunman opened fire at a dance studio in Monterey Park on January 21, 2023, killing eleven people and injuring nine more as they were dancing on the eve of Lunar New Year. This tragedy has shaken Los Angeles County residents and has reminded us of the ever-looming threat of gun violence in our daily lives. In the week following this tragedy, the state of California was rocked by three more mass shootings, including another one in Los Angeles County that took place in the Beverly Crest neighborhood of Los Angeles.

Gun violence is a complex issue that will require a complex, multi-pronged solution. The County is currently expanding community-based violence prevention programs and access to mental health and substance use disorder treatment, all of which are important components of a strategy to prevent gun violence. Another component is to implement common sense gun regulations that will limit the number of dangerous guns on the streets and help keep our communities safe. While federal gun regulations remain tragically weak, the state of California (State) has implemented a series of strong regulations that include robust background checks,

MOTION

SOLIS \_\_\_\_\_

MITCHELL \_\_\_\_\_

HORVATH \_\_\_\_\_

BARGER \_\_\_\_\_

HAHN \_\_\_\_\_

limitations on military-grade weapons, and restrictions on who can carry a firearm on their person.

There are additional gun regulations that local governments can implement in their own jurisdictions. Following a June 14, 2022, motion unanimously passed by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board), County Counsel presented an analysis of four different legal options for the County to enhance gun regulations. On September 13, 2022, the Board passed a motion (“Enhancing Gun Regulations in Los Angeles County,” Hahn/Solis) directing County Counsel to draft ordinance language for the following regulations:

- 1) An ordinance banning the sale of .50 caliber handguns and ammunition in unincorporated Los Angeles County;
- 2) An ordinance prohibiting carrying/possession of firearms on all Los Angeles County property;
- 3) An ordinance implementing zoning regulations with a buffer zone between gun and/or ammunition dealers and sensitive areas (e.g. schools, day cares, parks) in unincorporated Los Angeles County; and
- 4) Amendments to the County Code that update and enhance requirements for ammunitions and firearms dealers.

The proposed ordinances banning the sale of .50 caliber handguns and ammunition and prohibiting the carrying of firearms on County property are ready for introduction and adoption by the Board of Supervisors. The ordinances implementing zoning regulations and the amendments to the County Code for enhanced licensing requirements require further review and consideration

by the Department of Regional Planning and Treasurer and Tax Collector, respectively.

In the wake of the deadliest mass shooting in County history, it is even more urgent than ever to move forward with implementing these regulations. It is time to adopt an ordinance to ban the sale of .50 caliber handguns and ammunition and prohibit the carrying of firearms by the public on certain County property, including beaches, playgrounds, plazas, and County department buildings. Additionally, we must move forward with the next steps to establish an ordinance to implement zoning restrictions on firearm dealers and strengthen licensing requirements for ammunitions and firearms dealers. The Department of Regional Planning and Treasurer and Tax Collector should finalize these two ordinances, respectively, and submit them to the Board for approval as soon as possible. Too many people have lost loved ones to gun violence in Los Angeles County. We must be united in our fight against gun violence and enhancing local regulations is an important part of the fight.

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

1. The attached ordinance amending Title 13 - Public Peace, Morals and Welfare, Division 8 - Weapons to prohibit the sale of .50 caliber firearms and ammunition, with certain exceptions, in unincorporated Los Angeles County; and
2. The attached ordinance amending Title 13 - Public Peace, Morals and Welfare, Division 8 - Weapons to prohibit the carrying or possession of firearms on County property, with certain exceptions.

**WE, FURTHER, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors direct the Department of Regional

Planning to prepare the ordinance to implement zoning regulations with a 1,000 ft buffer zone between firearm dealers and sensitive areas (i.e. "child safety zones") and between firearm dealers and other firearm dealers in unincorporated Los Angeles County as set forth in the February 1, 2023, Report, and to submit the final ordinance to the Board for its consideration.

**WE, FURTHER, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors direct the Treasurer and Tax Collector to prepare the final amendments to Los Angeles County Code Title 7 (Business Licenses), Chapter 7.46 (Gun Dealers) to enhance the regulation of firearm and ammunition dealers in unincorporated Los Angeles County as set forth in the February 1, 2023, Report, and to submit the ordinance to the Board for its consideration. These regulations should include the following:

1. Require ammunition dealers to obtain a Los Angeles County business license;
2. Restrict minors' presence in gun and ammunition stores and requires corresponding signage to be posted at entrance;
3. Require firearms dealers to maintain annual sales reports and make them available to TTC and/or law enforcement upon request;
4. Require firearms dealers to maintain a fingerprint log and make it available to TTC and/or law enforcement upon request;
5. Require firearms dealers to maintain and report inventory in real-time and make it available to TTC and/or law enforcement upon request;
6. Require firearms dealers to install and maintain security cameras and make footage available to law enforcement immediately upon request;

7. Require firearms and ammunition dealers to provide purchasers a letter regarding gun owner responsibilities and gun laws; and
8. Update all references to the California Penal Code in Los Angeles County Code sections 7.46.010 and 7.46.030

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JH:kc