COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2021  

MINUTE ORDER NO. 1

SUBJECT: TAKING GHOST GUNS OFF OUR STREETS AND DISRUPTING THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE AFFLICTING OUR COMMUNITIES (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW
The United States continues to suffer from the plague of firearm violence and deaths. Amongst the two-dozen high income, populous countries including Australia, France, Italy, Spain, and the United Kingdom, over 80 percent of firearm deaths occur in the US. Over 90 percent of children killed by firearms in this group were from the US. Each year, more than 39,000 people in United States die as result of gun violence, and tens of thousands more suffer non-fatal gun injuries.

To stem the tide of gun violence, we must take action at the local level. We must take action to prevent unintentional shootings, interrupt suicidal tendencies, reduce the risk of homicides and decrease access to guns used in crimes.

A “ghost gun” ordinance would lower the chances of firearms getting into the hands of individuals banned from possession due to a criminal conviction involving a felony or violent misdemeanor, and from persons prohibited from possessing firearms due to mental illness.

To reduce suicides and other deaths or injuries, reasonable gun storage laws must be enacted at the local level. Studies have demonstrated that the risk of suicide-particularly amongst children and teens—is significantly higher in homes where a firearm is kept loaded and/or unlocked. An alarming number of children and teens live in homes with loaded and unlocked guns and the overwhelming majority of these minors know where in the home the guns are kept. Additionally, keeping guns out and accessible can lead to accidents causing unintentional injury or death.

While California law required makers of 3D printed guns to apply for a serial number from the Department of Justice, additional local action is needed. Individuals can easily download a design file and print a firearm with a $200 3D printer in just a couple of hours.

3D printing potentially enables those who are prohibited from possessing firearms, principally felons and domestic abusers, to avoid background checks.

While ordinances and regulations must be changed to prevent further harm from guns, it is also critically important to pair these interventions with community-based violence intervention to disrupt cycles of violence.

RECOMMENDATION(S)
CHAIR NATHAN FLETCHER AND SUPERVISOR TERRA LAWSON-REMER
1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), in consultation with County Counsel, to return to the Board in 90 days with a draft ordinance that, unless already preempted by State law:
   A. Updates definitions regarding firearms as appropriate including defining “ghost guns,” precursor parts for such guns and unserialized parts and guns
B. Prohibits the possession or distribution of unserialized parts used in the creation or possession of ghost guns

C. Creates safe firearm storage standards

D. Prohibits 3D printing of unserialized firearms or precursor parts

2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to develop options for community-based gun violence reduction and disruption programs and return to the Board within 180 days.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT
According to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), as of 2019, 30 percent of all firearms recovered in California were not serialized. Locally, the number of ghost guns recovered by law enforcement has steadily been trending upward over the past few years. Research also shows that gun violence and traditional responses to gun violence disproportionately have a negative impact on communities of color, often perpetuating harm and trauma that continues to cycle from generation to generation. This initiative seeks to reduce the impact of gun violence across the County, especially within the communities that are most disproportionately impacted. The development of programs that adopt best practices of addressing harm and trauma by providing healing and accountability, and centering and elevating the voices of those directly impacted by violence, foster safety, and equitable outcomes by disrupting the cycle of violence and mass incarceration that has historically disproportionately impacted communities of color.

FISCAL IMPACT
There is no fiscal impact associated with today’s action. There may be future fiscal impacts associated with the final recommendations for option to provide community-based violence reduction and disruption programs. Any such recommendations would need to return and be approved by the Board.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT
N/A

ACTION:
ON MOTION of Supervisor Fletcher, seconded by Supervisor Lawson-Remer, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended.

AYES: Vargas, Lawson-Remer, Fletcher
NOES: Anderson, Desmond
State of California)
County of San Diego) §

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

Signed by Andrew Potter