

Agenda Report

TO: CITY COUNCIL

July 20, 1999

THROUGH: Legislative Committee

FROM: City Manager

SUBJECT: Legislation Controlling Handgun Sales and Banning Assault Weapons

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council adopt the attached resolution and authorize the Mayor to send a letter to the appropriate officials *supporting* the following four bills controlling handgun sales and banning assault weapons: Assembly Bill 32 (Scott) - *Firearms*; Assembly Bill 491 (Scott) - *Firearms*; Assembly Bill 505 (Wright) - *Firearm Safety Standards*; Senate Bill 15 (Polanco) - *Firearms*.

BACKGROUND

On January 25, 1999, the City Council adopted a legislative platform for the City of Pasadena. One of the key issues in this platform is *controlling handgun sales and banning assault weapons*. This agenda report outlines and recommends the City support four bills that are consistent with this platform.

Assemblyman Scott has introduced two gun control bills into the 1999 Legislative Session, Assembly Bill 32 and Assembly Bill 491. Assembly Bill 32 would effectively prohibit the licensing authority and the Department of Justice from granting any new firearms dealer license or firearms manufacturer license to an applicant whose business premises are located within 1,000 feet of any private or public school. On April 15, 1999, the measure passed out of the Assembly with a 41-26 vote. The measure passed on June 21, 1999 in the Senate Committee on Public Safety with an amendment which states that this bill does not preclude any local governments from enacting ordinances imposing additional conditions on licensees with regard to employees.

Assembly Bill 491 would make carrying a concealed firearm punishable as a felony. This measure passed out of the Assembly with a 43-27 vote. On July 6, 1999, Assembly Bill 491 was referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee and is awaiting a hearing date.

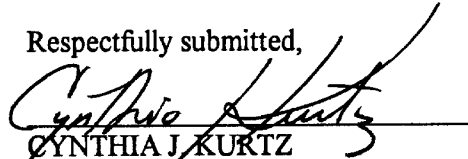
Assembly Bill 505 - *Firearm Safety Standards* was introduced by Assembly Member Wright. On July 7, 1999, the bill was amended in the Senate to the current status. This bill would provide that the court may order a person who is convicted of exposing a child to a firearm, which the child then carries that firearm off-premises, to perform not more than 200 hours of community service and participate in parenting courses that meet specified requirement as a condition of probation. In addition, this bill would prohibit any member of the public who is under 18 years of age from being admitted to a gun show or event unless accompanied by a legal guardian or parent. Finally, Assembly Bill 505 would require every model of pistol, revolver, or other firearm capable of being concealed upon the person that is manufactured for sale in California on or after January 1, 2000, to satisfy specified safety tests and standards. On June 1, 1999, this bill passed out of the Assembly with a 54-10 vote. This bill is currently in the Senate Public Safety Committee waiting for a hearing date to be set.

The final gun control bill is Senate Bill 15 - *Firearms* authored by Senator Polanco. This bill provides for restrictions on the manufacture, importation or sale of "unsafe handguns". On May 10, 1999, this measure passed out of the Senate with a 25-15 vote. This bill is currently in the Assembly Appropriations Committee awaiting a new hearing date. If this measure is enacted into law without any further amendments, it would preempt any local ordinances. The League of California Cities supports this bill.

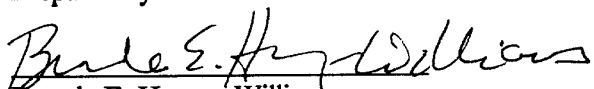
FISCAL IMPACT

Passage of these bills would enhance the City's ability to enforce stricter gun control measures without incurring the cost to develop and implement our own City ordinances.

Respectfully submitted,


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