

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2024**

**MINUTE ORDER NO. 24**

**SUBJECT:     REDUCING GUN VIOLENCE THROUGH RESPONSIBLE FIREARM  
PROCUREMENT ORDINANCE (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

**OVERVIEW**

On October 8, 2024 (8), the Board of Supervisors considered this item. The motion to adopt the recommendations failed due to a tie vote, and the Board did not continue the item. Pursuant to Rule 2(g) of the Board of Supervisors Rules of Procedure, the item was placed on the agenda for the next regular meeting.

Gun violence remains a significant problem across the U.S. and here in San Diego County. Recent school shootings in Georgia and Northern California serve as tragic reminders of the thousands of lives lost or forever changed due to the easy access dangerous individuals have to firearms. San Diego County has taken aggressive action to close loopholes in gun laws, including a 2021 “ghost gun” policy that has removed three times more illegal firearms from our streets, enhancing the safety of our communities.

Today's proposal leverages the County’s purchasing power to hold gun dealers accountable and raise the bar for responsible firearm sales. Taxpayer dollars should not support businesses that fail to meet firearm safety standards. However, research from Brady: United Against Gun Violence found that at least 90 California law enforcement agencies, including San Diego County, have purchased firearms from dealers with documented violations against gun regulations. For instance, LA Action Police Supply, a vendor with over 40 federal violations, has received \$18 million in contracts from 67 agencies across the state. This practice must change.

This policy will strengthen the County’s firearm procurement process by requiring all gun dealers bidding on contracts to prove compliance with state and federal laws, maintain a clean record, submit inspection reports, and implement strict security measures to prevent theft and unauthorized sales. This action builds on the City of San Diego’s recently adopted Ira Sharp Firearm Accountability Act authored by Council Member Marni Von Wilpert. By setting a higher standard of transparency and responsibility, we ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent supporting businesses that prioritize public safety, accountability, and the well-being of our communities.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**VICE-CHAIR TERRA LAWSON-REMER**

1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to develop a firearm procurement ordinance for board consideration. Specifically evaluate operational and administrative impacts, including evaluation standards, related to the inclusion of the following vendor requirements in an ordinance and return to the Board in 120 days with key findings and options for Board consideration. The ordinance would include, but not be limited to, the following:
  - a. Proof of compliance with applicable state and federal laws, including permits, and certificates,
  - b. Documentation of firearm trace requests received within the past five years,

- c. Documentation of thefts from the vendor's premises within the past five years,
- d. Submission of inspection reports conducted by federal, state, or local agencies,
- e. Disclosure of violations from inspections related to the purchase, transfer, manufacturing, or sales of firearms conducted by any federal, state, or local agencies,
- f. Documentation of policies and practices concerning the following:
  - i. Preventing, detecting, and screening for the transfer or sale of firearms to firearm traffickers,
  - ii. Preventing sales to individuals prohibited by federal, state, and local law, or court order,
  - iii. Preventing theft of firearms,
  - iv. Training employees to ensure compliance with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations,
  - v. Assisting law enforcement agencies in the investigation and prevention of criminal access to firearms, and
  - vi. Operation of digital video surveillance systems.

### **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

This action is designed to improve public safety by implementing stricter firearm procurement measures, ensuring equitable protection for all community members. By instituting a rigorous vetting process for gun dealers and enhancing accountability, the policy aims to prevent firearms from reaching unauthorized individuals, thereby reducing gun violence, which disproportionately impacts marginalized communities. This initiative promotes responsible firearm procurement while contributing to a safer, more inclusive environment where all residents, regardless of background, are safeguarded from the threat of gun violence.

### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

By implementing stringent vetting processes for gun dealers and promoting responsible firearm procurement practices, the policy aims to reduce gun violence and its associated social and economic costs. This reduction in violence enhances community well-being and resilience, creating a more sustainable society. Furthermore, the policy's focus on preventing unauthorized gun sales and theft helps ensure that firearms are managed and utilized responsibly, supporting long-term public safety and sustainability goals.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact associated with these recommendations at this time. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years. There may be fiscal impacts associated with future related recommendations which staff would return to the Board for consideration and approval.

### **BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

**ACTION:**

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

AYES: Vargas, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe

NOES: Desmond

NOT PRESENT: Anderson

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