

---This is a DRAFT Resolution and is subject to change and revision until a FINAL Resolution is approved by City Council---

A RESOLUTION

CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE AND UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ADDRESS GUN VIOLENCE; AND FOR THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO TO REVIEW AVAILABLE ACTIONS AND POLICIES AT THE LOCAL LEVEL TO ENHANCE THE SAFETY OF SAN ANTONIO RESIDENTS.

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WHEREAS, the City of San Antonio (City) is committed to the safety, health, and welfare of all of its residents; and

WHEREAS, ensuring the safety of San Antonio residents, public safety officers, and visitors is a top City priority; and

WHEREAS, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that “firearm related mortality” in the United States is at epidemic levels, claiming over 39,000 lives annually; and

WHEREAS, there were 3,313 firearm-related deaths in Texas in 2017 according to the CDC; and

WHEREAS, in the first week of the 116th Congress, House Resolution 8 (H.R. 8) was introduced on a bipartisan basis in the United States House of Representatives to require background checks for all commercial gun sales; and

WHEREAS, on February 27, 2019, the United States House of Representatives, on a bipartisan basis, approved H.R. 8, marking the first time major gun safety legislation has passed the United States House of Representatives in more than twenty years; and

WHEREAS, in the over 150 days since H.R. 8 was passed by the United States House of Representatives, the United States Senate has not debated or voted on this legislation; and

WHEREAS, in just the first weekend of August, at least 31 people were killed in mass acts of gun violence in 24 hours; and

WHEREAS, on August 3, 2019, 22 individuals were killed and another 24 were wounded in a mass shooting that occurred in El Paso, Texas; and

WHEREAS, after the May 18, 2018 shooting at Santa Fe High School, in Santa Fe, Texas, where 10 people were killed and 13 injured, Texas Governor Greg Abbott met with superintendents, administrators, law enforcement officials, as well as survivors of gun violence, to discuss policies that could increase the safety of schools and communities while preserving Second Amendment rights; and

WHEREAS, on May 30, 2018 Texas Governor Greg Abbott released a School and Firearm Safety Action Plan, which included a recommendation encouraging the Texas Senate and House

leaders to consider the merits of adopting a red flag law or “extreme risk protective orders” allowing law enforcement, a family member, a school employee, or a district attorney to file a petition seeking the removal of firearms from a potentially dangerous person only after legal due process is provided; and

WHEREAS, on November 5, 2017, a mass shooting occurred roughly 30 miles east of San Antonio in Sutherland Springs, Texas. The shooting at the First Baptist Church killed 26 people and wounded 20 others. Texas Governor Greg Abbott’s School and Firearm Safety Action Plan described the so-called “red flag laws” as a proposal which could have been used to prevent the shootings at Sutherland Springs and at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida; and

WHEREAS, the 86th Legislative Session began January 8, 2019 and provided opportunities for the Texas House and Senate to consider gun safety legislation; and

WHEREAS, local organizations, including Texas Gun Sense and local chapters of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, have advocated at the Texas Legislature for sensible gun safety legislation, including aspects of the Governor’s School and Firearm Safety Action Plan while also citing objections to the expansion of the school marshal program; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Legislature adjourned without taking action regarding gun safety legislation; and

WHEREAS, Texas Governor Greg Abbott has the authority to call a special session of the Texas Legislature to immediately address gun safety legislation and to reduce the risk of mass shootings in other Texas communities;

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO:

SECTION 1. City Council calls on state and federal government to immediately take emergency action to end gun violence and address the associated public health and public safety crisis threatening the country.

SECTION 2. City Council calls on Texas Governor Greg Abbott to immediately call a special session of the Texas Legislature to advance proposals included in Governor Abbott’s School and Firearm Safety Action Plan consistent with the recitals above; and

SECTION 3. City Council calls on the United States Senate to begin debate and deliberation on H.R. 8 and other meaningful gun safety legislation that has been approved by the United States House of Representatives; and

SECTION 4. City Council directs the City Manager to send a copy of Governor Abbott’s School and Firearm Safety Action Plan along with a copy of this Resolution to our County delegation of the Texas House and Senate, the Texas Governor, the Texas Lieutenant Governor, and to the Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives and to send a copy of this Resolution to the Texas Municipal League and to all municipalities in the State of Texas with populations over 500,000 residents to encourage them to consider taking similar action.

SECTION 5. City Council will review and identify actions and policies available at the local level through the Intergovernmental Relations and Public Safety Committees to address and

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enhance the safety of the residents of the City of San Antonio.

SECTION 6. This Resolution is effective immediately upon the receipt of eight affirmative votes; otherwise, it is effective ten days after passage.

PASSED AND APPROVED this --th day of August, 2019.

M A Y O R
Ron Nirenberg

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Leticia M. Vacek, City Clerk

Andy Segovia, City Attorney