

R-55-2000

**RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING GUN SAFETY AND
RESPONSIBLE GUN OWNERSHIP**

WHEREAS, there are an estimated 250 million guns in the United States, of which almost 70 million are handguns; and

WHEREAS, recent statistics reveal that each year, approximately 18,500 Americans are accidentally shot; and

WHEREAS, each year an average of 1,500 American children are sent to emergency rooms with accidental firearm-related injuries, and every day an average of 14 American children die in firearm-related incidents, whether accidental or intentional; and

WHEREAS, in 1997, the most recent year for which data is available, there were 981 unintentional shooting fatalities, 306 involving children 19 years old or younger; and

WHEREAS, in 1996, 32% of all surveyed homes with children contained at least one gun; and only 30% of those surveyed homes with children reported those guns to be locked and unloaded; and 61% of those surveyed homes with children had at least one gun unlocked – most likely a rifle; and

WHEREAS, in light of the foregoing, the City Council of the City of Las Vegas believes that it is critical for responsible government at all levels to address the issue of gun safety and responsible gun ownership, particularly as it relates to the protection of our children; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes that, notwithstanding the right of Americans to bear arms, there is a corresponding responsibility to own, use, and store firearms in a safe and appropriate manner; and

WHEREAS, the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department is one of only six police departments nationwide participating in Project HomeSafe, a pilot program in conjunction with the National Shooting Sports Foundation to promote safe handling and secure storage practices among all firearm owners; and

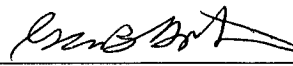
WHEREAS, the City Council believes that an effective means of providing for the safe and appropriate ownership and storage of firearms, and to help reduce juvenile and adolescent accidents and misuse of home kept firearms, is for manufacturers and distributors to proactively

1 protect the public through providing responsible gun ownership education and gun safety locks.

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Las
3 Vegas to strongly encourage manufacturers, sellers and distributors of firearms to supply the
4 recipient of every firearm sold, traded, or acquired by other means, with educational opportunities
5 on responsible gun ownership and a gun safety lock.

6 PASSED, ADOPTED, and APPROVED this 17th day of May, 2000.

7 CITY OF LAS VEGAS

8 By 
9 OSCAR B. GOODMAN, Mayor

10 ATTEST:

11 
12 BARBARA JO RONEMUS, City Clerk

13 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

14  5-11-2000
15 Date

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MAYOR GOODMAN

Item 46, this is R-55-2000. A resolution, approval of resolution encouraging gun safety and responsible gun ownership. The purpose of this is that too many deaths and injuries result from guns which are accessible to children and youth. This resolution is intended to encourage greater gun safety and responsibility. It's the recommendation that the City Council consider and take appropriate action concerning the resolution. Councilman Mack.

COUNCILMAN MACK

Thank you, Your Honor. I take great pride in bringing this resolution forward. I've had tremendous support from the community. I've had a lot of phone calls, e-mails from gun dealers, residents and I think it just needs to be clear that the intent of this resolution is to promote gun safety and proper gun ownership. This is no way a gun control effort. And I just wanted to make that clear right from the git-go. I am a card-carrying member of NRA. I hold a concealed weapons permit. I have a federal firearms license and I'm a dealer.

And I do promote good, smart gun ownership. And I think being responsible and having sound business practices, educating the public and – user of any firearm is good, sound business practice.

So, with that, I'd like to have our attorney, John Redlein, read the resolution and then I have a few people from the audience and guests that are going to – testify on this effort.

ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY
JOHN REDLEIN

With your permission, Mr. Mayor. Resolution 55-2000 is a resolution proposed to encourage gun safety and responsible gun ownership.

Whereas, there are an estimated 250 million guns in the United States, of which almost 70 million are hand guns; and

Whereas, recent statistics reveal that each year approximately 18,500 Americans are accidentally shot; and

Whereas, each year an average of fifteen hundred American children are sent to emergency rooms with accidental firearm related injuries and every day an average of 14 American children die in firearm related incidents, whether accidental or intentional; and

Whereas, in 1997, the most recent year for which there is data available, there were 981 unintentional fatalities, 306 of those involving children 19 years old or younger; and

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Whereas, in 1996, 32% of all surveyed homes with children contained at least one gun and only 30% of those surveyed homes with children reported those guns to be locked and unloaded and 61% of those surveyed homes with children had at least one gun unlocked, most likely a rifle; and

Whereas, in light of the foregoing, the City Council of the City of Las Vegas believes it is critical for responsible government at all levels to address the issue of gun safety and responsible gun ownership, particularly as it relates to the protection of our children; and

Whereas, the City Council recognizes that notwithstanding the right of American's to bear arms, there is a corresponding responsibility to own, use and store firearms in a safe and appropriate manner; and

Whereas, the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department is one of only six police departments nationwide participating in the project Home Safe, a pilot program in conjunction with the National Shooting Sports Foundation, to promote safe handling and secure storage practices amongst all firearm owners; and

Whereas, the City Council believes that an effective means of providing for the safe and appropriate ownership and storage of firearms and to help reduce juvenile and adolescent accidents of misuse of home-kept firearms is for manufacturers and distributors to proactively protect the public through provision of responsible gun ownership education and gun safety locks.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Las Vegas to strongly encourage manufacturers, sellers and distributors of firearms to supply the recipient of every firearm sold, traded or acquired by other means with educational opportunities on responsible gun ownership and a gun safety lock.

MAYOR GOODMAN

Thank you very much, Mr. Redlein. Councilman Mack?

COUNCILMAN MACK

Thank you, Mr. Redlein. At this time, I'd like to ask some of the people and honored guests that have come up here. I'd like to start with Commissioner Herrera. I know you're breaking away from your Commission meeting and, to come over here. I really thank you for coming over.

COMMISSIONER DARIO
HERRERA

Thank you. Any excuse that I get to miss zoning meeting, is a welcome excuse. Thank you very much.

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Mr. Mayor and Honorable City Council, thank you for your attention to this item. And I'd also like to thank Councilman Mack for his diligence in putting this resolution together. And also congratulate Metro for their outstanding work with regard, with regards to gun safety.

You know, since October of 1997, there's been 28 shooting deaths in our schools, dozens more injured. And certainly we can get into a debate of what the causes of that are. But a lot of those injuries were inflicted with guns.

What's great about this resolution is that it doesn't in any way, shape or form impede upon a person's right to bear arms. I think that's a well established fact and something that's very important to people in Las Vegas and Nevada as a whole. But what it does do is attempt to increase the awareness and heighten the attention that responsible gun ownership is a necessity in our community.

Las Vegas is growing rapidly. We have people from all over America moving to this great city and I think it's important that those folks that move here as well as those who live here currently understand that this is a city and a county that's committed to gun safety.

Some of the key points of the resolution encourage point of sale/distribution of information. What better opportunity do you have to distribute educational materials than when someone purchases a gun. You know, government's often times criticized for knee-jerk responses to issues and certainly legislatures and local governments across America are passing gun control laws and parental penalties for kids who own guns and so forth. And that's why I think this resolution is so important. This isn't a knee-jerk response. This is something that merely attempts to address the awareness of gun safety and show the people, the families, the kids of our community that gun safety is an issue that we should all be concerned about and all should be interested in promoting.

I thank you, Mayor, illustrious City Council, for your indulgence and urge your support of this resolution.

MAYOR GOODMAN

Thank you very much for coming here today.

COUNCILMAN MACK

If we could, we can just have maybe Chief Sheldon start. And then we can just have the other two honored guests follow.

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MICHAEL SHELDON, DIRECTOR OF DETENTION & ENFORCEMENT Thank you very much, Councilman. Good morning, Your Honor.

MAYOR GOODMAN Good morning.

MICHAEL SHELDON, DIRECTOR OF DETENTION & ENFORCEMENT Council members. While the Department of Detention and Enforcement takes no stand or no position on gun control, we are very strongly committed to gun awareness and gun safety. As we speak, we're developing an educational program on – gun awareness and gun safety. I've had discussions with Dr. Barbara Jackson from Parks and Leisure about targeting the Safekey and Latchkey programs. We think those kids are at risk and we want to start with this program, introduced to those kids. We hope to have the program organized and orchestrated within the next couple months. We're seeking sponsorship from a major gun manufacturer as well. But whether we're successful with that sponsorship or not, we are going forward with, excuse me, the educational program.

So, if there's anything you all would like to ask, I'll happily answer it. Thank you.

MAYOR GOODMAN Thank you. Thank you very much. Councilman?

COUNCILMAN MACK Thank you, Your Honor. With this, it brings me great pleasure to introduce my brother, Steven Mack, who owns Super Pawn, who's been very proactive in the gun safety initiative.

STEVEN MACK Thank you, Mayor. Thank you, City Councilmen. Thank you, Michael. I'd just like to bring a few key points regarding gun registration and the effects of the Brady Bill.

The Brady Bill, the federal government has initiated Brady Bill. There's been many checks that have resulted in a lot of positive results. State government is the government agency that currently regulates and supports the – transaction of Brady Bill. And, to give the City a lot of credit, years before the Brady Bill, this City has enacted a resolution and law that requires the blue card to be acquired for any citizen of the City of Las Vegas to actually hold a firearm in their home.

I would recommend to the City Council that we indoctrinate some sort of publicity and safety program through our T.V. network that promotes and educates new residents in the City that this is such a requirement. So that during the process of the blue card registration, we could also be

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proactive in handing out gun safety brochures, from the State, Nevada Fish and Game, as well as the opportunity of purchasing a gun lock at that specific time.

Ninety percent of the crimes and accidents in the use of a firearm are purchased legally outside the boundaries of a federal firearm license dealer. These purchases are made through gun auctions, shows and classified ads. So that means that 10 percent of the guns that are used in crimes and accidents are purchased from federal firearm licensed dealers. Many of these crimes are self-inflicted injuries.

A lot of these firearms are purchased or acquired through actually family acquisition. Two hundred and fifty million weapons as our – attorney had stated, many of these weapons are handed down from generation to generation. So, it's our civic responsibility and our corporate responsibility from Super Pawn to enact a free gun lock give away, which will be enacted in over seven cities in Arizona and Nevada. The overwhelmingly response of this from gun owners is overwhelming.

I give this Council, this, the Metropolitan Police Department a lot of credit for stepping forward and supporting such a program. Thank you.

MAYOR GOODMAN

Thank you very much. You might want to take the opportunity, since we are on KCLV Channel 2, to tell us a little bit about the blue card and the gun registration at this point. This is a good educational opportunity for you.

STEVEN MACK

Okay. In order to acquire a firearm in the City of Las Vegas, there are two checks that are required. One by the federal government, the Brady Bill. And also the City of Las Vegas has taken a proactive role in gun registration. Every citizen in the City of Las Vegas is required to carry a blue card, which is a gun registration card, for gun ownership in the City of Las Vegas. So for all of our new residents that come to Las Vegas, please come down to the Metropolitan Police Department, fill out a registration form, get your blue card and – be a part of our community and promote gun – safety. Thank you.

MAYOR GOODMAN

Thank you very much. And a blue card, if you can sort of hone in on – me, looks like this. It's a gun registration card, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, Las Vegas, Nevada. This certifies that on this date, which was March the 3rd, 1999, Gary F. Reese of Las Vegas, Nevada, registered the weapon described on the reverse side of the card and this card is not and shall not be construed as a permit to carry said gun concealed. This card is not

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transferable to any other person. It's signed by the Sheriff. And then on the back, it describes a particular gun with the serial number, the caliber, the type, the color, the model, and the barrel length. And it's signed by Councilman Reese and the, there's a Clark County ordinance, 12.04.210, it shall be unlawful for any person to sell, give away or permanently pass on to another person, of any pistol, revolver or other firearm capable of being concealed, unless the transferor first registers or causes the weapon to be registered to the new owner.

And apparently when, in fact, when you have more than one weapon, you have to have a registration for each of the weapons that you possess. Thank you, Councilman.

COUNCILWOMAN McDONALD What is the Councilman packing? Since I sit next to him, I'd like to know.

COUNCILMAN REESE I'm not.

COUNCILWOMAN McDONALD Okay.

COUNCILMAN McDONALD The important thing to point out, I think that Mr. Mack and also the Mayor read, when he read that, that is not a concealed weapons permit. And it does, every firearm you have, as far as the concealable that was mentioned there, has to be registered and permitted. And, in order for if you were stopped and carrying this concealed, that is not a concealed weapons permit. You have to go for a State and another one, for – that to be licensed.

MAYOR GOODMAN All right. Thank you, Mayor Pro Tem. Councilman Reese shows me what a concealed weapons permit looks like. It has his name on it and the permit number, the date that it was issued, the date it expires, the signature and then a description of his height, weight, date of birth, the particular make of the weapon, the model and the caliber.

COUNCILMAN BROWN How much does he weigh?

COUNCILMAN McDONALD How much you weigh?

MAYOR GOODMAN I'm not, I'm taking the Fifth. I'm not going to tell you how much he weighs. That's up to him.

COUNCILMAN REESE 160 pounds.

COUNCILMAN McDONALD How tall is he?

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MAYOR GOODMAN 160 pounds, he may have misrepresented. Let's remember that when we come to the work card portion of the – agenda.

COUNCILMAN McDONALD (inaudible)

COUNCILWOMAN McDONALD What color hair again?

MAYOR GOODMAN Okay.

COUNCILMAN MACK Thank you, Your Honor. At this time, I'd like to introduce Ron Montoya who owns American Shooter Supply, who's been very proactive.

RON MONTOYA Thank you. Mayor, City Council, first off, I'd like to commend Councilman Mack on his efforts in making the community safer with firearms' related accidents. At American Shooters, we've always promoted firearms safety through education. We've always felt that education was the most important factor in any type of firearm related accidents. We have always promoted gun locks, education.

And we feel that this is a community effort, not just an individual – who, carrier who possesses a firearm or an individual gun store owner. I believe it's a community effort that we constantly remind the public and the gun owners to keep their firearms safe and keep them away from the people who aren't as familiar with firearms as they are. And again, education is a key factor in this. And I'd just like to state that I'm very happy to be part of any type of a promotion in firearms education and training. Thank you.

COUNCILMAN MACK Ron – Just for the record, you – teach the concealed weapons permit course. And how many students do you see going through your programs a year?

RON MONTOYA Yes, We – teach close to about 3, 400 people a year in concealed weapons permit courses. Also, we also teach tremendous amount of people the basic handgun orientation courses. We also promote the Eddie Eagle program for children, people that have children under the age of 11, that we do teach a firearms, don't touch program, free of charge to children in this community.

And again, I think what needs to be more addressed is relaying this information to the public, which I believe this Council's doing. Thank you.

COUNCILMAN MACK Thank you. I appreciate you coming down.

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MAYOR GOODMAN Thanks.

COUNCILMAN MACK Thank you, Your Honor.

MAYOR GOODMAN That it? Any comments?

COUNCILMAN REESE Yes.

MAYOR GOODMAN Councilman Reese.

COUNCILMAN REESE I – would like to make a couple comments, if it's okay with Councilman Mack. I was born and raised, it seems like, with a gun in my hand. My dad took me out when I was a very young person. In Panaca, we had to shoot our winter supply of meat. My dad was very self-conscience, when he – was around a gun. And there is nobody that can be too careful when you have a firearm in your hand. And I go out, I take my grandkids with me. And I don't know what would ever happen if an accident happened to one of my grandkids.

I love – weapons. I try to take the best care that I can of my guns. I make sure they're clean. But the most important thing is I try to make sure that they're empty before I ever handle them. I think that Councilman Mack needs to be commended for coming forth with this type of a program. I think it is very necessary that the City supports a program like this, making gun safety awareness a priority in the City of Las Vegas. So, Councilman Mack, my hat's off to you.

MAYOR GOODMAN Thank you. Councilwoman McDonald.

COUNCILWOMAN McDONALD Thank you, Your Honor. I too would like to commend Councilman Mack for his leadership in bringing this issue of gun awareness and gun safety to the City Council. I would just like to offer some comments in that, you know, I think that we have to again get back to our homes. Councilman Reese talked about the household he grew up in. The same with my own. In a military family, members of the Rotten Gun Club on every military installation we grew up on, you know, gun safety was very important and encouraged in our household and all those military bases I grew up on.

But at the same time we need to remember that what we're talking about today really impacts those people who are rationale thinkers and responsible citizens. It really doesn't do anything to address the problem, I feel, for those people who have it in their mind that they're going to commit a crime. That will not deter them in any way. I mean, we

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currently in America have 22,000 gun control laws of some form, whether it be federal, state or the local level, and yet America has the worst rate of violent crime in, of any industrialized country in the world.

Another scary statistic, 20% of high school students now carry a weapon of some kind on a regular basis. Fewer than 10% of all criminals commit about 2/3rds of all the crime in America.

What I believe really needs to occur, in addition to education and safety, that we really have to enforce these gun control laws that are aimed at criminals. We need mandatory full sentencing for repeat violent offenders. And we need to have minimum mandatory sentencing standards for those who commit crimes with guns. Again, nothing can take the place of responsible parenting and educating and making sure that within our own households that guns are kept in a safe place.

But again, I just am a big believer that we can't, we can do a lot of wonderful things to educate the public, but unless we crack down on those who are committing the crimes and enforce the laws that we have on the books, we will not see any deterrents and the crimes committed, with guns, in this community and in our country.

MAYOR GOODMAN

Thank you. Councilman Weekly.

COUNCILMAN WEEKLY

Yes, Sir, Your Honor. You know, I support this gun safety initiative 100% and I commend the Mack brothers just for being responsible businessmen by taking a stance to promote safety. I recall a conversation we had while in Washington D.C., while attending the National League of Cities, and listening to these gentlemen travel around our nation's capital and talking with various folks about this initiative, I think it's – absolutely wonderful that we have someone locally that's doing something of this magnitude. And I'm sure that there are many parents out there that are just praising him today for even putting something in place.

When we look at the number of students here in Clark County that have committed suicide this particular school year alone, it's just, it's a very sad situation. And I know when Councilman McDonald and I were over at Western High School, talking with the students in reference to the Sam Larrious (phonetic) case, where the student was killed in a drive-by shooting, the students are in the School District here in fear of attending school. Not knowing if their peers are packing guns in their briefcases or their backpacks and so, just to know that there is just another measure in place

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to promote safety is just something I think that many parents who send their kids off to school every day feel just a little bit safe.

And you know, I believe in the phrase that guns don't kill people, people kill people. And I understand that, but I do also understand too that guns fall in the hands of irresponsible people and many young people do not have, are not afforded an opportunity such as Councilman Reese had, to have a father that would take him out and – teach him responsible gun safety measures. There are young people who walk around in fear today of the bully on campus. I mean, I'm sure many of you all can recall attending school back in the day and knowing that there was a bully on campus and you wondering if you were going to get beat down today at school. And many kids today, they don't – deal with that anymore. They protect themselves. And so, in fear, they not only shoot their – I guess, their, get the bully, but they shoot everybody around them, you know.

And that's a very uncomfortable situation to know that young people are walking around today in that much fear. So, Councilman Mack, and your, to Steve, thank you very much for this initiative. I appreciate it.

MAYOR GOODMAN

Anybody else?

COUNCILMAN McDONALD

Yes, Your Honor. Councilman Mack, I told him a while ago, I'd support this resolution. Dealing that it is encouraging gun safety laws, not gun control, gun safety. On this, I would ask the City Manager if there's a way that we can maybe promote this on our PSA on our, on Channel 2. As far as maybe educating, taking it one step further, working with David, on ways that you can use the gun safety, the gun safety locks, on the – weapons that you see. Maybe places that you can get them. Something along, an application, or apply it to, but one step further I think Councilman Mack has taken this ball and run with it. And I wouldn't ask him to stop now. I think he should keep going.

If we could maybe draft some education process to take it to the School District as well. We've had similar programs, obviously in the several years we've dealt with this. Growing society, as far as education, the – children now are far more educated than many of us sitting on this board at such a young age. And we see the community leaders that have stepped up. They need to be recognized and thanked. But we need to take this to the children as well. Mike, I think you should take this to the School Board and you already have Commissioner Herrera who was here. I think he's

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taken it back to the County. To see if we can draft some type of program to hit the children right where they are. That there are weapons in the home, do not touch them. If there are weapons in the home, they should unload it. Something along the lines. Maybe take it, Councilman, to – education process.

But I support you 100% on this. I think it shows good leadership and good government.

COUNCILMAN MACK

Thank you.

MAYOR GOODMAN

Young lady, the president.

SHARIAN BROWN

I feel as a student that we have our parents and, as Councilman Reese was saying, his dad was very careful with him. It all starts at home and when you have responsible parents, it helps, but for those children who don't, I think we should start having classes offered in the classroom at school. Because those are the places we go every day.

MAYOR GOODMAN

Thank you.

COUNCILMAN McDONALD

And that's from a new leader. Right there.

MAYOR GOODMAN

Right. That's from a leader is right. Well, since I'm the one who has to sign the resolution, I'd like to make this comment – Go ahead, Councilman.

COUNCILMAN MACK

Please, Your Honor. I – would just like to thank everyone who came down to testify. I'd like to thank my colleagues for all your positive comments. We have discussed the education portion with children, with Chief Sheldon and his program. And we plan to take it to the School District to initiate. But, you know, I think what we're looking at today is just an encouragement and an education process that needs to be furthered along. I think 10, 15 years ago we had to do the same thing when we had the seatbelt laws enacted and maybe 25, 30 years ago when our parents or grandparents told us, well, they used to keep their doors unlocked in their homes. And those days have changed and I, unfortunately, times have changed with gun ownership and I just think it's time for us all to be responsible.

MAYOR GOODMAN

Thank you. I, I'd like to say this, that I'm a great believer in education. And I think that youngsters can learn from education. I know with my children they were taught in school and at home. And there was a little bit of example, that if they smoked, they would develop, they could develop

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heart disease or cancer, so we don't have any smokers. And they were taught the dangers of drinking and driving and they don't drink and drive. They, if they go to a party and there's any drinking that takes place and if they participate in it, they have a – designated drive to take them home.

So you can learn from the education. But the bottom line is, it's the adults in the home who have to bear the responsibility in my opinion. As I say, I love educating people and teaching them, but if a youngster, a 9-year old kid goes into Super Pawn, your brother's not going to sell – him a gun. And it's up to the parents, it's up to the adults who are responsible for taking care of the youngsters. So all the education in the world is – great, but I think the responsibility really has to be on the adults.

But I will sign it. And I will move for it. **Move for the adoption of the resolution.** Vote on the motion, please. Post, please. Motion carries. **(Motion carried unanimously.)** Thank you.

COUNCILMAN REESE

I'm going to try and find my button.

MAYOR GOODMAN

Post, please.

CITY CLERK RONEMUS

It wouldn't – register?

COUNCILMAN REESE

No.

CITY CLERK RONEMUS

Okay. We can go ahead and I'll post then and we'll indicate an affirmative for you.

MAYOR GOODMAN

All right.

COUNCILMAN REESE

I supported you, Mack.

MAYOR GOODMAN

Yes. All right. The motion carries unanimously. **(Motion carried unanimously.)**

END OF DISCUSSION

/vwd;bkb