

Resolution No. _____

Supporting Further Restrictions on Firearms and Other Related Issues

WHEREAS, the United States has one of the highest national rates of firearm-related murders in the world, and the highest per capita rate of all developed countries; and

WHEREAS, over 30 Americans are murdered with guns and other firearms each day; and

WHEREAS, on December 12, 2012, twenty children and six adults were shot to death at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, the Sandy Hook shootings were, unfortunately, not a unique tragedy; and

WHEREAS, there are many other examples of mass murders with firearms in recent years, including the July 20, 2012, shooting of Aurora, Colorado, movie theater patrons with a semi-automatic weapon in which twelve people were killed and fifty-eight were wounded; the August 5, 2012, murder of six people inside a Sikh temple in suburban Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and the April 16, 2007 Virginia Tech shooting, in which 32 people died and 17 others were injured; and

WHEREAS, countless other mass shootings occur every year in this country; and

WHEREAS, now is the time to take action on reasonable steps to prevent further murders with firearms; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alexandria City Council supports the following policies relating to legislation on weapons and certain mental health issues that may arise during the 2013 General Assembly Session:

1. Legislation should be enacted to restore the one gun a month law which was repealed by the 2012 General Assembly.
2. Legislation should be enacted to outlaw the sale of large capacity magazines for automatic weapons, both rifles and hand guns.
3. Local governments should be given the authority by the General Assembly to prohibit or restrict firearms in public buildings within their jurisdictions, including libraries, recreation centers, and other government buildings or offices which they own or lease.
4. Legislation should be passed to make gun and weapons trafficking a State offense.
5. State law should be amended to require criminal background checks on all firearms transactions.
6. Funding for mental health services should be increased, particularly for individuals in crisis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City Council directs the City's Legislative Director to provide copies of this resolution to the members of the City's Legislative Delegation, so that they may be apprised of Council's action.

ADOPTED: January 22, 2013

WILLIAM D. EUILLE, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, MMC, City Clerk