

POLICY DIRECTION: LOCAL FIREARM/GUN CONTROL REGULATION

City Council

Nov. 19, 2019



Recommendation

Provide direction to staff regarding potential next steps following the Gun Safety Town Hall held on Oct. 14, 2019



Background

- City is committed to safety, health, and welfare of all its residents, employees and visitors
- US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports firearm related deaths are at epidemic levels
 - 40,000 lives are lost annually in Country
 - 3,000 deaths in California in 2018
 - So far in 2019, at least 21 mass shootings and 124 people killed
- Alameda is part of the solution
 - Prior community conversations
 - Call to action – Aug. 2019 letter from Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft to US Senate Majority Leader, Mitch McConnell and Minority Leader Chuck Schumer
 - Legislative Advocacy – Supported 11 state bills and 1 federal



Council Referral & Town Hall

- Unanimous Council support for referral by VM Knox White and CM Oddie.
- Gun Safety Town Hall hosted at Alameda Theatre on Oct. 14, 2019
 - Panel speakers included:
 - Rob Bonta, Assembly Member
 - Nancy O'Malley, District Attorney
 - Paul Rolleri, Alameda Police Chief
 - Stephen McHale, Priest at Christ Episcopal
 - Gordon Taras, Junior Optimists
 - Louise Reed, Moms Demand Action for Common Sense Laws
- Approximately 65 members of the public attended Town Hall



Potential Options Related to Local Gun Control/Safety Measures

Four broad categories*:

1. Safety Training;
2. Reducing potential for violence in public;
3. Ownership and storage; and
4. Responsibility and documentation.

**Any specific options selected by Council will be vetted by staff to consider effectiveness, resources, and potential conflicts with state and/or federal law before the next public discussion*



1. Safety Training

- A. Require certified firearms training for all registered gun owners in the city (i.e., every 5 years)



2. Reducing Potential for Violence in Public

- A. Prohibit the carrying of guns at protest and/or demonstrations
- B. Prohibit carrying multiple 10-rounds of ammunition or less capacity magazines in public
- C. Regulate or prohibit possession of firearms and/or ammunition on certain types of public property, i.e., parks, recreation areas, and/or municipal buildings



3. Ownership & Storage

- A. Require gun owners to carry (additional) liability insurance
- B. Require a regular safety maintenance check-up (i.e., every 5 years) including trigger lock functionality for each firearm
- C. Create a strict liability penalty provision for gun storage
- D. Require safe storage in the home
- E. Require owners who leave guns in their unattended vehicle to store them safely



4. Responsibility & Documentation

- A. Require firearm dealers to carry (additional) liability insurance
- B. Require videotaping of sales
- C. Prevent firearm dealers from being located in residential areas or prohibit firearm sales as “home occupation” (i.e., being a home business)
- D. Require firearm dealers to periodically report their inventory to law enforcement
- E. Require firearm dealers to deny entrance to unaccompanied minors and other people who are prohibited from owning a gun
- F. Require that firearm dealers be inspected by Police Department
- G. Tax gun and ammunition sales to fund gun violence prevention education
- H. Require firearm dealers to post notice about local laws, warnings about the dangers of keeping guns in the home, and/or information about suicide prevention



Recommendation

Provide direction to staff regarding potential next steps following the Gun Safety Town Hall held on Oct. 14, 2019, which might include:

- Specific items to follow-up on;
 - Seeking input from stakeholders and formulating recommendations related to local gun control regulation; and/or
 - Any other next steps that the City can take to better inform possible local regulations or programs.
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- *If specific options are identified by Council, before the next public discussion they will be vetted by staff to consider:*
 - *Likely effectiveness in Alameda;*
 - *Resources impacts; and*
 - *Any potential conflicts with state and/or federal law.*

