

RESOLUTION NO. 20171207-054

WHEREAS, the City of Austin is committed to the safety, health, and welfare of all of its residents; and

WHEREAS, ensuring the safety of Austin residents and visitors is a top City priority that depends on a strong federal-state-local partnership; and

WHEREAS, state and federal laws and other forms of cooperation are crucial to the City of Austin's public safety efforts; and

WHEREAS, claiming over 30,000 lives annually, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that gun violence in the United States is at epidemic levels; and

WHEREAS, gun silencers are accessory devices that can be used to suppress the sound of gunfire and mask muzzle flash; and

WHEREAS, gun silencers have been effectively regulated since the 1930s and the deregulation of these devices may increase public safety risks by making it more difficult for law enforcement and the public to identify the sound of gunshots and locate an active shooter; and

WHEREAS, recent federal legislation has considered deregulating gun silencers; and

WHEREAS, so-called bump stocks are accessory devices that allow semi-automatic firearms to mimic the rapid firing action of machine guns; and

WHEREAS, Austin is known as the Live Music Capital of the World and features many live music events, and one of the deadliest events in modern American history was a mass shooting at a live music festival in Las Vegas; and

WHEREAS, Las Vegas law enforcement personnel have reported that the gunman responsible for the massacre in Las Vegas used bump stocks to allow his semi-automatic weapons to fire considerably more bullets on the crowd during the attack, leaving 58 people dead and hundreds wounded; and

WHEREAS, in November of 2017, on a bipartisan basis, Massachusetts became the latest state to approve a ban on bump stocks; and

WHEREAS, existing federal laws intended to prevent access to firearms by domestic abusers have significant limitations; and

WHEREAS, federal laws fail to require domestic abusers to surrender their firearms, and federal laws do not apply to many abusers who victimize non-spouse partners; abusers who victimize a family member other than a partner or child; or convicted stalkers and others subject to a protective order; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Justice, Homicide Trends in the United States: Intimate Homicide report released in July of 2007 documented that firearms were used to kill more than two-thirds of spouse and ex-spouse homicide victims between 1990 and 2005; and

WHEREAS, the Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence reports that at least 18 states have enacted gun bills aimed at domestic abusers since the 2012 massacre in Newtown, Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 20130228-035 urged leaders at the state and federal level to enact legislation that would, among other things, require background checks for all gun sales, put reasonable restrictions on public ownership of military-style guns, and improve the accuracy and completeness of background check databases; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin currently advocates for gun control legislation through the City Council-adopted legislative program, which calls on the United States Congress to enact gun control legislation that requires background checks for all gun sales; provides for prosecution of straw purchasers and gun traffickers; limits the size of ammunition magazines; puts reasonable restrictions on public ownership of military-style guns; and improves the accuracy and completeness of background check databases to ensure the safety of our citizens; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Council expresses its strong support for state and federal legislation that would prevent access to firearms by domestic abusers not currently covered by federal laws including abusers who victimize non-spouse partners; abusers who victimize a family member other than a partner or child; and convicted stalkers and others subject to a protective order.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Council expresses its strong support for state and federal legislation that would regulate and prevent access to bump stocks; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Council expresses its strong opposition to legislation that would increase public safety risks by deregulating gun silencers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Council amends the City's state and federal legislative program and agenda to (1) support legislation that would limit or prevent access to firearms by domestic abusers who are not currently prevented access by federal law including abusers who victimize non-spouse partners; abusers who victimize a family member

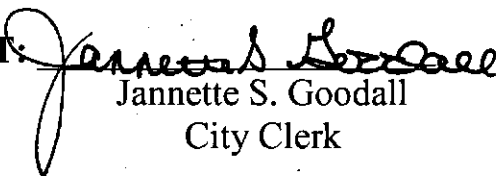
other than a partner or child; and convicted stalkers and others subject to a protective order; (2) and support legislation that would require domestic abusers to surrender their firearms, and (3); and support legislation that would regulate and prevent access to bump stocks; (4) and oppose any legislation or federal action that would deregulate gun silencers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Texas delegation of the U.S. Congress, the Travis and Williamson County delegation of the Texas House and Senate, and to the White House.

ADOPTED: December 7, 2017

ATTEST:


Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk