

RESOLUTION NO. 20220616-091

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

WHEREAS, ensuring the safety of residents and visitors is a top City priority; and

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

WHEREAS, according to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, in 2011 firearms were the number one cause of death for police officers killed in the line of duty; and

WHEREAS, firearms are the leading cause of death for children in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the City advocates for gun safety legislation through the Council-adopted state and federal legislative agenda; and

WHEREAS, AR-15 style weapons have been used in some of the deadliest mass shootings in recent American history, including Sandy Hook in 2012; San Bernardino in 2015; Pulse Nightclub in 2016; Las Vegas and Sutherland Springs in 2017; El Paso in 2019; and Boulder in 2021; and

WHEREAS, in Uvalde, an 18 year-old used an AR-15 style weapon to murder 19 Texas children and 2 teachers, and to injure at least 17 others on May 24, 2022; and

WHEREAS, in Buffalo, an 18 year-old used an AR-15 style weapon to murder 10 people and to injure 3 others as they shopped for groceries on May 14, 2022; and

WHEREAS, experts have opined that young people under the age of 21 physiologically respond to stressors with greater violence and exhibit less self-control than older adults; and

WHEREAS, the legal age to purchase alcohol in Texas is 21; and

WHEREAS, the legal age to purchase tobacco and nicotine products for non-military members in Texas is 21; and

WHEREAS, the legal age to purchase a handgun from a business or individual with a Federal Firearms License is 21; and

WHEREAS, an AR-15 style weapon and similar semi-automatic rifles are self-evidently more dangerous than alcohol, tobacco, or handguns if handled improperly; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

The Council directs the City Manager to explore every option that would allow the City to prohibit the sale of AR-15 style weapons and other semi-automatic rifles to anyone below the age of 21.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

If the City Manager finds a viable option, the Council directs the City Manager to present it to Council for review no later than July 26th, 2022.

ADOPTED: June 16, 2022

ATTEST:



Myrna Rios
City Clerk