

RECOGNIZE THAT GUN CONTROL MEASURES REDUCE GUN VIOLENCE

WHEREAS, responsible gun ownership can be consistent with our Constitutional rights; however, the Supreme Court repeatedly has reiterated the Constitutionality of limits to gun ownership and use. Even conservative Justice Scalia's writings, in a 2008 opinion states: "Like most rights, the right secured by the Second Amendment is not unlimited..." and it is "... not a right to keep and carry any weapon whatsoever in any manner whatsoever and for whatever purpose."

WHEREAS, there are relatively few shootings by citizens defending themselves, contrary to misinformation spread by the gun industry. Rather, most shootings result from abuse or misuse of guns. Annually, there are 1.5 million crimes committed where firearms were used. 68% of murders are gun related and 55% of suicides are by using guns.

FURTHERMORE, every day (on average) 300 Americans are victims of gun violence, with 85 lives taken daily as a result. More than 69,000 of the 100,000+ shootings each year are non-fatal, yet still leave in their wake a trail of pain, suffering, disabilities and/or disfigurement, and anguish and grief for family and community.

WHEREAS, gun violence impacts society in countless ways: medical costs, costs of the criminal justice system, security precautions such as metal detectors and armed guards, and reductions in quality of life because of fear of gun violence. These impacts are estimated to cost U.S. citizens +\$100 billion annually.

WHEREAS, researchers at Boston Children's Hospital and the Harvard School of Public Health found that states with the most restrictive gun control laws had 42 percent fewer gun-related deaths than those with the least restrictive.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we call upon our local, state, and federal legislators to enact reforms that limit access to military style assault weapons and handguns and high capacity ammunition magazines, such as those used in the massacre in Dec 2012 of children in school in Newtown, CT.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call for closing the so-called federal "gun show loophole," which allows for the purchase of firearms from private sellers without submitting to a background check, or providing documentation of the purchase; "micro-stamping" of bullet casings to help law enforcement track bullets used in the commission of crimes; and limits to the concealed carry laws in public places.

WHEREAS, about a third of all public schools already have armed security guards, and the demand for school policing has made it the fastest growing area of law enforcement. But studies have been unable to show that armed guards make schools any safer. Two of the most deadly shootings in US history, at Columbine High School and Virginia Tech, occurred on campuses with armed security guards.

THEREFORE WE RESOLVE that arming more citizens is a not a solution to gun violence; and we oppose increasing armed guards in our schools as our sole response to the massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School.

Affirmed through voice vote and platform discussion by Precinct H-03, March, 2013