

JUN 13 2008

PUBLIC SAFETY

MOTION

Gangs and guns are the most significant threats to the safety of the people living in many of our communities in Los Angeles. In 2007, 394 people were murdered in the City. 78%, or 306 people, were killed with a firearm. Another 1,895 were shot with a gun but survived. Of the 394 people murdered in Los Angeles last year, 58% were killed in gang-related violence and 70% of all shootings in the City involved a criminal street gang. In 93% of the gang-related murders, the gang member used a gun. Thus far this year, 670 people have been shot and 429, or 64%, of those shootings were gang-related.

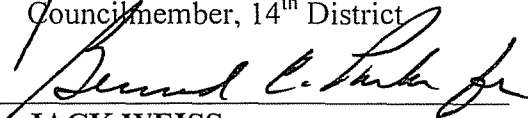
While these statistics represent some of the lowest numbers in murders, shootings, and gang-related crime the City has experienced in decades, it is still a painful reminder of the unnecessary loss of life that occurs in the streets of our city by gang members who use guns. Therefore, we must do more.

Nationally, more than 13,000 guns are reported lost or stolen annually and, according to the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), those guns are a major source for illegal trafficking. In 2000, ATF issued a comprehensive report of firearms trafficking in the U.S. The report analyzed 1,530 trafficking investigations during the period of July 1996 through December 1998, involving more than 84,000 diverted firearms. ATF found that firearms dealers were associated with the largest number of trafficked guns – over 40,000 – and concluded that their access to large numbers of firearms makes dealers a potential threat to public safety when they fail to comply with the law.

Current law requires that City gun dealers perform physical inspections of their gun inventories once a year. An enhanced inventory ordinance would require City gun dealers to perform physical inspections of their inventories twice a year, send a sworn affidavit of these inspections to the LAPD, and require the reporting of any missing or stolen guns. The increase in inventory accountability would allow the LAPD to investigate legitimate gun thefts more quickly and root out rogue gun dealers.

**I THEREFORE MOVE** that the City Attorney's office be requested to draft an ordinance that would require City gun dealers to perform physical inspections of their inventories twice a year, send a sworn affidavit of these inspections to the LAPD, and require the reporting of any missing or stolen guns.

PRESENTED BY:   
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