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City Council Passes Resolution in Support of Legislation to Protect the Ban on Cop-Killer Bullets

LOS ANGELES, April 8, 2011 – At Councilman Dennis P. Zine’s urging, the City Council voted 12-0 to support Senate Bill 124 (De León) which would protect California’s ban on “cop-killer” bullets. Councilman Zine was joined by Senator Kevin de León at today’s City Council meeting to urge Council Members and State Legislators to support SB 124, which is currently pending in the State Legislature.

SB 124 is designed to clarify the definition of handgun ammunition that was called into question in a political decision earlier this year by Fresno County Superior Court Judge Jeffrey Hamilton. The bill is responding to the ruling brought on by a National Rifle Association lawsuit and clarifies the definition of handgun ammunition in the Penal Code to make certain that neither this court case nor any future lawsuit can invalidate California’s ban on cop-killer bullets.

“I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my colleagues for taking a stance to help safeguard the men and women in law enforcement who risk their lives daily to protect and serve our communities,” said Councilman Dennis P. Zine, member of the Public Safety Committee. “As a former LAPD Officer and current Reserve Officer, I applaud Senator de León’s efforts at the state level.”

“Working with Los Angeles’ top law enforcement leadership, I introduced SB 124 to protect our law enforcement officers, who, every day must face danger while they protect the citizens of our state and our communities,” stated Senator De León. “Thank you to the Los Angeles City Council for recognizing the need to protect our law enforcement personnel from harm and keep handgun ammo, more importantly the “cop-killer” bullets, out of the hands of criminals.”

Senate Bill 124 (De León) will be heard in the Senate Public Safety Committee Tuesday, April 12, 2011 in Sacramento.

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WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the proliferation of armor-piercing bullets which are designed to penetrate protective vests poses a serious danger to law enforcement efforts and to the lives of our law enforcement personnel; and

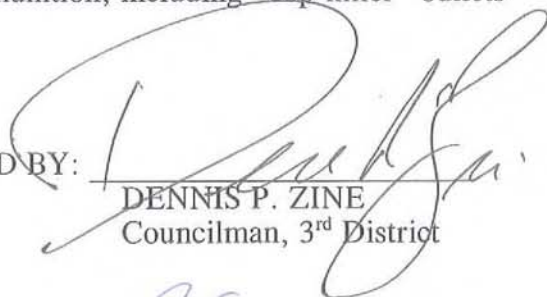
WHEREAS, currently pending in the State Legislature is a bill, S.B. 124 (de Leon) which would make it harder to buy handgun ammunition, including "cop-killer" bullets capable of piercing body armor; and

WHEREAS, this bill is also designed to counteract a court ruling last Monday which struck down another pending state law (AB 962) that would have restricted sales of handgun ammunition including Internet sales of handgun ammunition, requiring instead that such ammunition be purchased in face-to-face transactions with identification and thumbprints; and

WHEREAS, S.B. would clarify the definition of handgun ammunition in the Penal Code to make certain the State's prohibition on "cop-killer" bullets cannot be invalidated in the future;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2011 and 2012 State Legislative Program support for S.B. 124 (de Leon), and any similar legislation, which would make it more difficult to buy handgun ammunition, including "cop-killer" bullets capable of piercing body armor.

PRESENTED BY:



DENNIS P. ZINE
Councilman, 3rd District

SECONDED BY:



January 28, 2011
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