



**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers  
**FROM:** Michelle Greene, City Manager  
**CONTACT:** Deborah Lopez, City Clerk  
**SUBJECT:** Mayors Letter to Senate on Gun Safety Legislation

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Authorize the Mayor to sign the amended letter to the Senate Majority and Democratic Leaders, urging them to immediately call the Senate back to Washington to take up legislation that would strengthen the background check system (Attachment 1).

**BACKGROUND:**

Mayor Perotte was contacted by the Conference of Mayors to sign the United States Conference of Mayors bipartisan letter to the Senate Majority and Democratic Leaders, urging them to immediately call the Senate back to Washington to take up legislation that would strengthen the background check system.

Because gun safety legislation is not covered in the City's Legislative Platform, Mayor Perotte requested that staff bring this item to the City Council for consideration. Councilmember Kyriaco supported the Mayor's request.

**DISCUSSION:**

On August 20, 2019, the City Council received a report from staff recommending authorization to have the Mayor sign a letter to the Senate Majority and Democratic Leaders. At that meeting the City Council requested amendments to the proposed letter.

A revised letter for Mayor Perotte's signature incorporating the amendments provided Councilmember Kasdin is provided as Attachment 1 for Council consideration and potential authorization.

**FISCAL IMPACTS:**

There are no fiscal impacts associated with this action.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

The City Council can choose not to authorize the Mayor to send the amended letter to Congress, or could authorize the Mayor to send some alternative version of the letter instead.

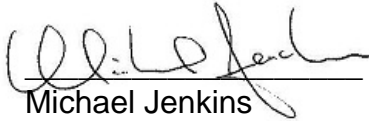
**Reviewed By:**

**Legal Review By:**

**Approved By:**



Kristine Schmidt  
Deputy City Manager



Michael Jenkins  
City Attorney



Michelle Greene  
City Manager

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Mayors Revised Letter to Senate Urging them to act Now on Gun Safety Legislation

## **Attachment 1**

Letter - Senate Action Needed NOW on Gun Safety Legislation





September 3, 2019

CITY COUNCIL

Paula Perotte  
Mayor

Kyle Richards  
Mayor Pro Tempore

Roger S. Aceves  
Councilmember

Stuart Kasdin  
Councilmember

James Kyriaco  
Councilmember

CITY MANAGER  
Michelle Greene

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Democratic Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 201510

Dear Leader McConnell and Leader Schumer:

RE: Senate Action Needed NOW on Gun Safety Legislation

On behalf of The United States Conference of Mayors, we urge you to immediately call the Senate back to Washington to take action on bipartisan gun safety legislation.

Already in 2019, there have been over 250 mass shootings. The tragic recent events in Gilroy, El Paso and Dayton are just the latest reminders that our nation can no longer wait for our federal government to take the actions necessary to prevent people who should not have access to firearms from being able to purchase them.

In late February, the House of Representatives passed two bills that would greatly strengthen the background check system:

- H.R. 8, the Bipartisan Background Check Act of 2019
- H.R. 1112, the Enhanced Background Checks Act of 2019

H.R. 8 passed the House on February 27 on a bipartisan vote of 240-190. It would close serious loopholes in the background check system by:

- Requiring all firearm purchases to undergo a NICS background check;
- Helping to prevent dangerous individuals from obtaining deadly weapons by circumventing the laws on the books;
- Prohibiting unlicensed transfers of guns through unregulated

- secondary sales; and
- Increasing law enforcement's ability to trace crime guns.

H.R. 1112 passed the House on February 28 on a bipartisan vote of 228-198. If this bill had been law in 2015, the terrible tragedy that occurred at the Emanuel AME Church in Charleston might have been avoided. The bill would extend the background check review period deadline from three to 10 business days, to help ensure that background checks are completed before weapons are sold and that dangerous individuals who should not have them are unable to purchase them.

H.R. 8 and H.R. 1112 are bipartisan, sensible gun safety bills that would make our cities and our people safer, and would in no way compromise gun owners' rights.

We urge you to call the Senate back to session now to take up and pass these bills to help reduce gun violence and the terrible toll it takes in our cities and our nation. Additionally, we urge the Senate to take action to eliminate or reduce the availability of assault weapons, high capacity magazines and bump-stocks, and perhaps even to take up legislation similar to that of the State of California.

Quick passage of these bills is a critical step to reducing gun violence in our country. The United States Conference of Mayors stands ready to work with Congress, the Administration and others to develop holistic remedies to the scourge of gun violence. America has proven time and again that we can rise to our most difficult challenges. We look forward to working with you to find a way forward to protect our citizens from this senseless carnage.

Sincerely,

Paula Perotte  
Mayor

cc:  
City Council