

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON,
FOR COMMON SENSE GUN SAFETY**

WHEREAS, recent deadly attacks at schools and in other public places in our nation have brought numerous calls to better ensure our community's safety, particularly that of our young people; and

WHEREAS, recent threats made against the lives of students in Thurston County schools have resulted in school lockdowns, police searches of schools, early releases of students, students fearing for their lives at school, and students staying home from school; and

WHEREAS, since 2013, there have been 291 shootings on elementary, middle, and high school and college campuses in the United States which averages to about one per week, and 168 of those shootings were at K-12 schools; and

WHEREAS, in the past five years, eight school shootings have occurred in Washington State, four of which resulted in injury or death,³ and school districts around Washington State have far too often been the scenes of gun violence and threats of gun violence; and

WHEREAS, in Washington, an 18-year-old can buy a military style assault weapon with no background check or waiting period; and

WHEREAS, gun violence, and threats of gun violence, in schools undermine the sense of security that all students should have in their learning environments; and

WHEREAS, students have seized the conscience of the nation, our state, and our community with their demand for strong action to reduce preventable gun violence, delivering an unmistakable message that now is the time to pass common sense gun safety laws; and

WHEREAS, RCW 9.41.290 severely limits municipalities from making laws regarding the possession and regulation of any firearms within their jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, sensible gun safety legislation will strengthen protections for our schools and students by preventing dangerous individuals from attaining firearms; and

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to increase available mental health resources in our community, as well as a need to expand restorative justice practices, and deepen our commitment to social and emotional learning;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Olympia City Council supports sensible gun safety legislation to protect students and all local people by:

- banning the purchase and sale of semi- automatic rifles;
- raising the age to purchase guns to 21 years;

- implementing enhanced universal background checks for fire arms;
- establishing safety programs in schools that do not include arming educators or staff;
- providing funding for thorough gun violence research, including removing the prohibition on research and data collection by the U.S. Center for Disease Control;
- supporting prevention, intervention and community re-entry programs that reduce community and gun violence;
- the mandatory reporting of any lost or stolen firearms;
- increasing discretionary power for local governments to grant or deny firearm permits;
- strategies that help local and state law enforcement track illegal guns;
- increased funding for school programs, training, and staffing, including but not limited to counselors, behavioral technicians, nurses, psychologists, and social workers, that support student and educator mental health, social and emotional learning, restorative justice, and that combats bullying; and

Section 2. The City Manager shall send a letter and an email to each member of our state legislative delegation with a copy of this Resolution as ultimately approved by the City Council of the City of Olympia.

Section 3. The City Manager shall ensure that this request is included in the City's legislative requests for the 2019 Legislative Session.

Section 4. The City Manager shall direct staff to do all that is necessary to ensure this Resolution is accurately conveyed to our state legislators with adequate time to submit and consider appropriate legislation.

PASSED BY THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL this _____ day of _____ 2018.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



CITY ATTORNEY