

Resolution No. 12-18

A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA, URGING THE INDIANA STATE LEGISLATURE, OUR GOVERNOR AND ALL UNITED STATES SENATE AND CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLES OF INDIANA TO JOIN WITH OUR COMMUNITY AND PASS LEGISLATION TO KEEP GUNS OUT OF THE HANDS OF VIOLENT CRIMINALS, DOMESTIC ABUSERS, AND SEVERELY MENTALLY ILL PERSONS BY CLOSING THE LOOPHOLES IN THE FEDERAL BACKGROUND CHECK SYSTEM AND STRENGTHENING STATE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LAWS

Whereas, the city of West Lafayette feels that it can protect the lives of its citizens and at the same time protect gun owners' Second Amendment rights; and

Whereas, to date, background checks have blocked over 3 million gun sales to prohibited people, with 91,000 of those occurring in 2014 alone, according to the FBI, and an estimated 104,000 by state and local agencies according to the DOJⁱ. Unfortunately, millions of firearms are sold in unlicensed sales, including anonymous transfers between strangers at gun shows and onlineⁱⁱ; and

Whereas, Indiana does not require private sellers (sellers who are not federally-licensed dealers) to initiate a background check before transferring a firearm; and

Whereas, some of our lawmakers argue that we do not need any new laws, that we should fix our existing laws before creating any new ones. We feel that our Indiana leaders have a responsibility to make our community safer by making all firearms subject to background checks at the point of sale, so that felons and those with adjudicated severe mental illnesses are barred from possessing guns; and

Whereas, we believe Indiana can be a good example and do the right thing. As a model, we ask our leaders to consider the bi-partisan Manchin-Toomey Senate bill, or Thomson King House bill, both of which close the gun show and internet sales loopholes in the federal background check system. Indiana's U.S. senators and representatives should co-sponsor and vote for these bills in their respective chambers; and

Whereas, we also ask our Indiana State legislators to craft legislation to close these loopholes in the federal background check system as implemented in Indiana, in light of the present inability of our federal legislators to support these bipartisan bills; and

Whereas, we also ask our Governor to support and sign into law such legislation. 89% of Hoosier citizensⁱⁱⁱ and 74% of the NRA's own members support background checks. The citizens of Indiana deserve safer communities in which to work and live; and

Whereas, we ask our elected officials in the Hoosier state to strengthen state laws to keep guns out of the hands of convicted domestic abusers. Domestic violence often involves firearms, and when it does, women and children are more likely to die or suffer severe injury. Many states have passed their own laws prohibiting domestic abusers from owning or purchasing firearms. We ask our state representatives to pass laws protecting those who suffer domestic violence, and our congressional representatives to vote for bills like Senator Klobuchar's (D-MN) Protecting Domestic Violence and Stalking Victim's Act of 2013 (S.1290), which would close the loopholes in federal law that allow certain domestic abusers and stalkers to possess guns.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Common Council of the City of West Lafayette, Indiana, as follows:

Section I. We in West Lafayette invite our Indiana lawmakers and representatives to an honest dialogue about the responsible solutions to gun violence that are available to those who are willing to work together. We ask them to sit down with our West Lafayette officials, civic leaders and survivors of gun violence and see what they are willing to do to strengthen our gun laws and at the same time protect our Second Amendment rights.

ⁱ <https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/bcft1314st.pdf>

ⁱⁱ <https://everytownresearch.org/background-checks-loop-hole/>

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://wishtv.com/2015/11/06/hoosier-survey-finds-supermajority-supports-gun-control/>

INTRODUCED ON FIRST READING ON THE 10 DAY OF August, 2018.


MOTION TO ADOPT MADE BY COUNCILOR DeBoer, AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR Dietrich.

DULY RESOLVED, PASSED, AND ADOPTED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA, ON THE 10 DAY OF August, 2018, HAVING BEEN PASSED BY A VOTE OF 7 IN FAVOR, 1 ABSTENTION, AND 0 OPPOSED, THE ROLL CALL VOTE BEING:

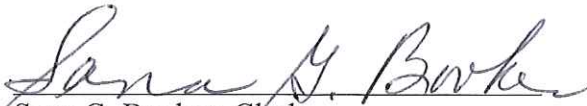
	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Bunder	✓			
DeBoer	✓			
Dietrich	✓			
Jones				✓
Keen			✓	
Leverenz	✓			
Sanders	✓			
Thomas	✓			
Wang	✓			


Peter Bunder, Presiding Officer


Attest:


Sana G. Booker, Clerk

PRESENTED BY ME TO THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA
ON THE 7 DAY OF August, 2018.


Sana G. Booker, Clerk

THIS RESOLUTION APPROVED AND SIGNED BY ME ON THE 8 DAY OF
August, 2018.


John R. Dennis, Mayor

Attest:


Sana G. Booker, Clerk