



**For Immediate Release  
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**Councilmembers Joe LaCava, Marni von Wilpert, and Raul Campillo Present Gun Violence Awareness Month Proclamation to San Diegans for Gun Violence Prevention; Bring Awareness to Dramatically Increasing Violence Rates**

**San Diego** — Today, Councilmembers Joe LaCava, Marni von Wilpert and Raul Campillo proclaimed June as Gun Violence Awareness Month in the City of San Diego in collaboration with San Diegans for Gun Violence Prevention. To commemorate their efforts against gun violence, Councilmember LaCava presented the Proclamation to the active community organization, San Diegans for Gun Violence Prevention, at their monthly meeting.

“Public safety is a top priority of our City,” **said Councilmember Joe LaCava.** “With senseless gun violence affecting so many San Diegans each year, it is our responsibility to bring awareness to the issue and offer protections to our residents. Gun violence has sky-rocketed nationally and locally in the last year, the latest increase in an already deadly trend. To protect our residents, San Diego must implement evidence-based solutions for gun violence to ensure that our neighborhoods stay safe. No family should have an empty seat at the dinner table due to gun violence.”

In 2020 alone, San Diego experienced a 16 percent rise in gun-related crimes. Additionally “ghost guns,” or untraceable, non-serialized firearms, turned up at 1 in 4 gun crime scenes in the City of San Diego. And, due to stay-at-home orders issued during COVID-19, domestic violence gun related crimes dramatically increased as more individuals were placed in situations of close proximity to abusive partners or family members for extended periods of time.

“We must do everything possible to protect our neighborhoods from the epidemic of gun violence. In San Diego and around the country, gun violence is fueled by the spread of non-serialized, untraceable ‘ghost guns.’ Now is the time to act to protect our communities from the spread of ‘ghost guns’ and I am working with the City Attorney’s office to bring forward an ordinance to close this loophole and keep guns out of the hands of dangerous individuals,” **said Councilmember von Wilpert.**

This rise in gun violence is a trend seen not only in San Diego, but across the United States. Nearly every American will know one person affected by gun violence in their lifetimes and this number is growing every single year.

“I have personally seen the life-saving effects that common sense firearm safety measures can have as a former member of City Attorney Elliott’s nationally renowned Gun Violence Response Unit. I was glad to join my colleagues, Councilmembers von Wilpert and LaCava, in bringing this important measure forward, and I applaud San Diegans for Gun Violence Prevention for their advocacy and success. Together, we can curb the epidemic of gun violence in this country,” **said Councilmember Campillo.**

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