



Office of the San Diego City Attorney

Mara W. Elliott
City Attorney

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The Honorable Anthony Portantino
California State Senate
State Capitol
Room 3086
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senate Bill 914 (Portantino): Firearms: Defining a Valid Hunting License -- Support

Dear Senator Portantino:

The San Diego City Attorney's Office is pleased to support Senate Bill (SB) 914.

SB 914 would define what is a valid and unexpired hunting license, so that an invalid license cannot be used by an underage person to purchase a firearm.

This need for this bill is especially relevant to us in San Diego County, as your co-author Assembly Member Tasha Boerner Horvath well knows. Last year, a teenager here was able to purchase a high-powered semi-automatic rifle using his hunting license, even though the minimum age for the purchase of firearms in California is 21 and the license, which he had recently applied for, was not yet valid. He then used this firearm to commit a horrific mass shooting at a synagogue in Poway, killing one woman and injuring others.

This important legislation would close that loophole. It would require gun stores and the state Department of Justice to check the validity of hunting licenses during a 10-day waiting period after gun buyers purchase a weapon and before they pick it up, preventing anyone under the age of 21 without a valid hunting license from purchasing such a weapon in California.

Our Office has been proactive in enforcing common-sense gun laws that help keep our children and families safe. Last year I authored the local Safe Storage of Firearms Ordinance, passed by the San Diego City Council, requiring gun owners to keep their firearms safely locked or stored when in the home, unless the weapon is in the immediate possession or control of the owner.

Our Office has also been a leader in utilizing California's Red Flag law – Gun Violence Restraining Orders – to prevent suicides, intimate partner homicides, and potential school and workplace shootings by removing guns from individuals who pose a threat to themselves or the public.

The safety of our communities requires that those who sell guns act responsibly and follow the law.

For these reasons, the San Diego City Attorney's Office strongly supports SB 914 and urges its passage.

Sincerely,

Mara W. Elliott