

RESOLUTION 2018-01

**BOROUGH OF DOWNINGTOWN
CHESTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

**A RESOLUTION BY THE COUNCIL OF THE
BOROUGH OF DOWNINGTOWN, CHESTER
COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA URGING STATE AND
FEDERAL LAWMAKERS TO ENACT STRONGER
PROTECTION AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE.**

WHEREAS, our nation continues to experience significant harm from gun violence and that the easy availability of firearms is an important factor, we look to our broader community of lawmakers to do their part to help curb the gun violence impacting our nation; and

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

WHEREAS, the Borough of Downingtown feels that this state and nation can protect the lives of its citizens and at the same time recognize and protect gun owners' second amendment rights; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Downingtown Borough Council is charged with securing the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the Borough, yet is not recognized as having legal authority to enact gun safety laws; and

WHEREAS, an average of more than 108,000 people are shot and 32,514 people die from gun violence in murders, assaults, suicides and suicide attempts, unintended shootings and police intervention in the United States every year¹; and

¹ <http://www.bradycampaign.org/key-gun-violence-statistics>

WHEREAS, 19 children will die or receive emergency treatment for a gunshot wound in the U.S. today and that 91% of all children who die from firearms in high-income countries across the world come from the United States, and guns are the third leading cause of death for all children between ages 1 and 17.²

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Borough Council of the Borough of Downingtown calls upon legislators in the Pennsylvania General Assembly, the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate to enact laws to reduce gun violence, including:

1. Preventing known and suspected terrorists, those convicted of violent hate crimes and those with a history of domestic abuse from illegally buying guns.
2. Ensuring that background checks are required on all sales, including online and at gun shows. In Pennsylvania, preserve the provisions of the Pennsylvania Instant Check System (PICS) which provides instant access to background records.
3. Require trigger locks on all firearms in houses where children are present.
4. Ban access to assault-style weapons.
5. Reduce the number of permissible cartridges in a clip or magazine.

We believe that these steps can be taken without infringing upon the use of firearms for legitimate hunting or other sporting purposes.

This resolution shall be distributed to current individuals holding the offices of:

- President of the United States;
- Governor of Pennsylvania;
- United States Senators from Pennsylvania;
- United States Congressman from the 6th Congressional District of Pennsylvania;

² "Childhood Firearm Injuries in the United States," (Fowler KA, et al. *Pediatrics*. June 19, 2017. <https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2016-3486>).

- Pennsylvania State Senator from the 19th Senatorial District;
- Pennsylvania State Representative from the 74th Legislative District.

ADOPTED this 21st day of February, 2018.

BOROUGH OF DOWNINGTOWN

By: _____
Anthony M. Gazzo
Borough Council President

Attest:

By: _____
Josh Maxwell, Mayor

Stephen T. Sullins, Borough Secretary