

Resolution No. 04-040121
Calling for Federal, State, and Local Action to Prevent Gun Violence

WHEREAS every day, more than 100 Americans are killed by gun violence, alongside more than 230 who are shot and wounded, and on average there are more than 13,000 gun homicides every year; and,

WHEREAS Americans are 25 times more likely to die by gun homicide than people in other high-income countries; and,

WHEREAS in an average year, 3,090 people die and 6,843 are wounded by guns in California, with a rate of 7.2 deaths per 100,000 people. California has the 37th highest rate of gun deaths in the US; and,

WHEREAS by March 26, in 2021 there have been 108 mass shootings and 9,879 deaths by gun violence across the country, including 5,610 suicides and 308 child deaths according to the Gun Violence Archive; and,

WHEREAS as a stark reminder of the prevalence of gun violence, on March 16, 2021, eight people were shot to death in the Atlanta area in Georgia, and on March 22, ten people were shot to death in Boulder, Colorado; and,

WHEREAS school shootings have become an all-too-frequent occurrence in modern America. From 2012 and the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School which claimed the lives of 20 first graders, through 2017, the Gun Violence Archive counted 251 shootings at K-12 schools in the United States. In that time, over 350 people were shot and 120 died; and,

WHEREAS in California, from 1999 through 2017, each year an average of 27 children under the age of 18 have died by suicide with a gun. Most often the gun used in youth suicide belongs to a parent or family member; and,

WHEREAS unsecured guns pose a special risk to children - kids as young as three years old are strong enough to pull a trigger; and,

WHEREAS protecting public safety in the communities they serve is the district's highest responsibility; and

WHEREAS keeping students, teachers and staff safe from the threat of gun violence should be the responsibility of all adult stakeholders at each of our school sites;

WHEREAS gun violence prevention is more important than ever as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to exacerbate gun violence after more than a year of increased gun sales and increased calls to suicide and domestic violence hotlines; and,

WHEREAS we renew our commitment to reduce gun violence and pledge to do all we can to keep firearms out of the wrong hands, and encourage responsible gun ownership to help keep our children safe;

WHEREAS in January 2013, Hadiya Pendleton was tragically shot and killed at age 15; and on June 4, 2021 to recognize the 24th birthday of Hadiya Pendleton (born: June 2, 1997), people across the United States will recognize National Gun Violence Awareness Day and wear orange in tribute to -

- (1) Hadiya Pendleton and other victims of gun violence; and
- (2) the loved ones of those victims; and

WHEREAS anyone can join this campaign by pledging to Wear Orange on June 4th, the first Friday in June in 2021, to help raise awareness about gun violence; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mountain View Whisman School Board calls on the United States Congress to act now and pass gun control measures to close gaps in background checks and to ban assault weapons and high capacity magazines. It has been 25 years since the federal government last enacted a gun safety law; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mountain View Whisman School Board calls upon the State Legislature to increase K-12 funding for wraparound services to prevent bullying, harassment, discrimination and violence in our schools and to provide funding for programs and staff such as counselors, psychologists, and social workers, that support students' mental health; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mountain View Whisman School Board declares the first Friday in June, June 4, 2021, to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day to honor and remember all victims and survivors of gun violence and to declare that we as a country must do more to reduce gun violence; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Mountain View Whisman School Board directs the Superintendent to create an appropriate communication to parents and guardians that explains the importance of safe gun storage and the legal obligations to protect minors from negligent gun storage, to be distributed annually; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board and the Superintendent will continue to work with local law enforcement agencies, health agencies and nonprofits to collaborate and increase efforts to inform District parents of their duty to safely store firearms in their homes.

Adopted this 1st day of the month of April in 2021.

Motion made by: _____

Second made by: _____

List members voting "aye:" _____

List members voting "no:" _____

List members abstaining: _____