

Mr. Melvoin, Mr. Schmerelson, Ms. Goldberg, Ms. Rivas, Mr. McKenna, Ms. Ortiz Franklin –
ENOUGH: End the Nation’s Ongoing Unrelenting Gun Horror (Res-012-22/23)

Whereas, In just January of 2023, more than 80 lives were lost in 52 mass shooting incidents as well as six school shootings that have resulted in injuries or death. These statistics tragically represent just a fraction of all those lost to gun violence in the United States, a country with more firearms than people;

Whereas, In the nearly 25 years since the Columbine High School Massacre, there have been more than 300 school shootings, including the tragic incidents at Sandy Hook Elementary, Marjory Stoneman Douglass High, and Uvalde Elementary. Gun violence continues to run rampant, enabled by a culture of violence and fear, and by a legal framework that implicitly condones a deadly arms race amongst civilians;

Whereas, The Los Angeles Unified School District supports the safety and well-being of its students, with joy and wellness forming a key pillar of its 2022-2026 Strategic Plan;

Whereas, The consequences of gun violence are widespread and impact entire communities by destroying a collective sense of well-being and safety and further exacerbating the growing mental health crisis. Children exposed to gun violence are at risk for short- and long-term psychological effects, including anger, withdrawal, post-traumatic stress, and desensitization to violence;

Whereas, Gun violence is a racial justice issue. People of color, particularly in low-income communities, are disproportionately and overwhelmingly harmed by gun violence due to the lack of investment in communities of color, racial housing segregation and structural racism;

Whereas, Black Americans are 10 times more likely than white Americans to die by gun homicide, women of color are disproportionally more affected by gun violence than white women, and young Black and brown Americans experience elevated rates of gun homicides;

Whereas, Gun related injuries became the leading cause of death for ages 1-19. Moreover, Black youth ages 15-34 experience the highest rates of gun homicides across all racial and ethnic groups;

Whereas, Children exposed to gun related violence are most likely to experience externalizing and internalizing disorders, posttraumatic stress, diminished social competence, school problems, and desensitization to violence, and potentially to be involved in or commit a gun violence offense; and

Whereas, The Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District has previously acted to combat gun violence and improve gun safety, including through resolutions;

- Support of Assembly Bill 2706 and Other Gun Control Measures (1994)
- Support of National ASK (Asking Saves Kids) Day to Prevent Gun Violence (2001)
- Resolution in Support of President Obama’s Plan to Protect Our Children and Our Communities (2013)
- Safeguarding Our Schools: Demanding Common Sense Gun Laws and Best Practices to Protect our Students and Staff (Res-030-17/18)
- Protecting Our Children from Preventable Gun Violence (Res-046-18/19); now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Los Angeles Unified School District reiterates its strong condemnation of the culture of gun violence and the widespread prevalence of guns in this country;

Resolved further, That the District amend its 2022-2023 Legislative Priorities to include support for state and federal legislation that:

1. Imposes requirements on gun sales or otherwise strengthens gun safety measures;
2. Strengthens gun storage laws, and facilitates public education about laws mandating the storage of firearms separately from ammunition;
3. Strengthens gun violence restraining laws and promotes education of the public and law enforcement about the importance of removing firearms from anyone who appears to be a threat to themselves or others; and
4. Support may include registering support for state or federal gun control legislation, drafting letters of support or advocacy to state or legislators, or other actions as the Superintendent deems appropriate;

Resolved further, That the Superintendent shall review the District’s procurement and financial investment policies to identify whether opportunities exist to adopt policies that discourage gun sales or ownership putting children at risk, such as divestment from gun retailers, and report back to the Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District within 180 days with any recommended action items resulting from that review;

Resolved further, That the District commemorates annually the first Friday in June as National Gun Violence Awareness and Wear Orange Day and facilitates education and outreach campaigns and curricular resources. In addition, the District will participate and partner with the city and county for National Gun Violence Survivor Week from February 1-7 as a platform to amplify gun violence survivor stories, make trauma informed programs and direct services available and hold discussions on reducing the traumatic impact of gun violence on youth, particularly students of color; and, be it finally

Resolved, That the District will advocate for investments in community-based violence intervention (CVI) initiatives and programs to address the root causes of gun violence to establish contextual proactive solutions.