

TOWN OF FAIRFAX
COUNCILMEMBER MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and Town Council

Meeting Date: January 10, 2013

From: Mayor Reed / Vice Mayor Weinsoff

Subject: Adoption of Resolution No. 13-4, A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Fairfax in Support of the Principles set forth by the Nationwide “Mayors Against Illegal Guns.”

RECOMMENDATION

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 13-4, A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Fairfax In Support of the Principles set forth by the Nationwide “Mayors Against Illegal Guns.”

BACKGROUND

The outpouring of grief in our community over the December 14th killing of 20 First Graders, 4 Teachers, the Principal, and the School Psychologist at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut reflects the great sorrow we all feel over this senseless tragedy. As individuals so many in the Fairfax community are finding personal ways to address the event. As their Council, this Resolution calls upon the Town government to join formally with other municipalities working nationwide to address gun violence in our country.

The wording of the proposed Resolution considered for adoption includes all other necessary information and background.

ATTACHMENT

Resolution 13-4 for consideration.

AGENDA ITEM # 11

RESOLUTION NO. 13-4

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFAX IN SUPPORT OF THE PRINCIPLES SET FORTH BY THE NATIONWIDE “MAYORS AGAINST ILLEGAL GUNS”

WHEREAS, the Town of Fairfax grieves for the 20 First Grade Students, 4 Teachers, the Principal, and School Psychologist killed on December 14, 2012 at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, the slaughter of innocents on that day cut a hole through the heart of a nation confronting the unimaginable loss from gun violence that terrible morning, gun violence that goes on unabated across our country almost every day; and

WHEREAS, President Obama in his address to the Newtown community and to us all on December 16, 2012, observed that “our first task [is] caring for our children. It’s our first job. If we don’t get that right we don’t get anything right. That’s how, as a society, we will be judged.” The President asked, “by that measure, can we truly say, as a nation, that we are meeting our obligations. Can we honestly say that we’re doing enough to keep our children – all of them – safe from harm? Can we claim, as a nation, that we’re all together there, letting them know that they are loved, and teaching them to love in return? Can we say that we’re truly doing enough to give all the children of this country the chance they deserve to live out their lives in happiness and with purpose?” The President answered “no” and declared that “we are not doing enough. And we will have to change”; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the strong voices now rising in our town squares to halt the national pandemic of gun violence, mayors of cities and towns across the Bay Area, California, and the United States have joined in a coalition “Mayors Against Illegal Guns,” pledging that “we are duty-bound to do everything in our power to protect our residents, especially our children, from harm and there is no greater threat to public safety than the threat of illegal guns” (mayorsagainstillegalsguns.org); and

WHEREAS, the Town of Fairfax and all its residents in one voice strongly support this immediate goal.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Town of Fairfax adds its name to the roster of municipalities declaring support for “Mayors Against Illegal Guns,” and resolves consistent with the “Coalition Principles” to work in concert with other governments, local, state, and federal, to find innovative new ways to advance the following:

- “Punish – to the maximum extent of the law – criminals who possess, use, and traffic in illegal guns.
- Target and hold accountable irresponsible gun dealers who break the law by knowingly selling guns to straw purchasers.
- Oppose all federal efforts to restrict cities’ right to access, use, and share trace data that is so essential to effective enforcement, or to interfere with the ability of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms to combat illegal gun trafficking.
- Work to develop and use technologies that aid in the detection and tracing of illegal guns.

- Support all local, state and federal legislation that targets illegal guns; coordinate legislative, enforcement, and litigation strategies; and share information and best practices.
- Invite other cities to join us in this new national effort.”

The foregoing Resolution was adopted at a regular meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Fairfax held in said Town on the 10th day of January, 2013, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

JOHN REED, MAYOR

Attest:

Judy Anderson, Town Clerk