

July 13, 2018

Jacksonville City Council
Office of the City Council
117 W. Duval St., Suite 425
Jacksonville, FL 32202

RE: Sensible Gun Legislation - Closing the Gun Show Loophole

Dear City Council Members:

We, as citizens of Duval County, community leaders, advocates, and grassroots organizations request you act to protect our citizens and community by passing an ordinance that requires background checks on all Duval County gun sales conducted by individuals, in effect close the gun show loophole, and that you join the 14 sister cities in Florida that are seeking to overturn Florida Statue 790.33, Firearms Preemption Law.

Last year, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), which processes gun background checks in the state, denied more than 12,600 sales to buyers who falsely stated that they were not banned from owning firearms. These bans were based on sales conducted by licensed gun dealers. This action prevented individuals that were deemed ineligible by law to own a gun from getting one. Imagine how many more would be banned if all private gun sales required background checks.

FDLE Reported Crime Statistics for Duval County shows that immediate action must be taken to protect citizens. A deeper dive into the data below will show that guns are the weapon of choice for violent offenders.

FDLE Annual Report	Year	Population	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Motor Vehicle Theft
Duval County	2016	923,647	106	540	1,523	3,586	6,166	24,466	3,218
	2017	936,811	112	581	1,425	3,807	5,929	24,636	3,143

Jan 1, 2018 through April 29, 2018, a four-month period, there were 33 deaths caused by gun shots and we are currently approaching 50 deaths by guns. According to DOD data there were a total of 37 U.S. casualties in the Iraq war zone during the years of 2016 and 2017 and 33 in Afghanistan during the same period. The deaths by gun violence in Jacksonville has exceeded war zone fatalities for the last two years and is on track to exceed it again within the next two months.

This violence is tearing families apart and leaving communities and businesses in fear. Bold leadership action must be taken to reverse this trend and protect the reputation of our city.

The Florida Constitution, Amendment 12 was passed it 1998. It allows Florida municipalities to pass ordinances to close the gun show loop hole. 11 counties have done so, and we ask that Duval county do the same.

We are aware that Florida Statute 790.33 Field of regulation of firearms and ammunition preempted is designed to preclude municipalities from acting to regulate fire arms, other than the gun show loop hole. We are also aware that 14 cities have joined in a law suit against, Governor. Scott, State Attorney Bondi, and associated leaders to have this law declared unconstitutional.

Taking these facts into consideration, we request that you act as one body to establish an ordinance requiring background checks for the private sale of firearms, effecting closing the gun show loop hole, and that Jacksonville join the law suit against FL Statute 790.33 to ensure our city leaders are empowered to legislate for the protection of citizens.

Individuals seeking to sell or buy a firearm in a private transaction can pay a nominal fee to a gun dealership to conduct the background check using the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS).

It is in the best interest of our citizens, communities and businesses that every action possible be taken to stop the distribution of firearms to those who are considered by law to be ineligible to own a gun. We know as community leaders you will take immediate action to review this request and therefore we would expect a timely response, 14 business days.

Cordially,