



THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

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****NEWS RELEASE****

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COUNCIL MEMBERS INTRODUCE RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF STATE LEGISLATION CALLING FOR STRONGER GUN LAWS IN NEW YORK

City lawmakers support bills to prevent the sale of firearms to criminals; require microstamping technology; criminalize certain kinds of ammunition; and ban the sale of military grade weapons

Bills will modernize terms in the penal code to reflect technological advances in weaponry

New York, NY – Today, Council Members Inez Dickens, James Gennaro and Margaret Chin introduced a resolution in support of pending legislation at the state level intended to create more comprehensive and stringent gun laws. In the United States, over 30,000 individuals are killed by firearms every year; and in New York State, over 1000 people are killed by guns every year.

“New York State’s passage of this package of legislation is a critical step in ensuring safety in our communities,” **Council Member Inez E. Dickens, Assistant Deputy Majority Leader, District 9, Manhattan**, said. “Tomorrow, I will be attending a funeral for First Sergeant Ackeem Paul Green, a young man gunned down by senseless violence while playing basketball at a court in my District. I’m horrified by the number of young men and women with such promising futures whose lives have been cut short due to guns ending up in irresponsible hands. Gun violence has ravaged the quality of life for our families and we as law makers will ensure that it will no longer be tolerated. This is just a step, but we are trying to take all steps needed to get guns off the street and eradicate gun violence.”

“The state legislation that we call upon our colleagues in Albany to pass are important measures to help our state become even safer and to assist our law enforcement in the fight against gun violence,” **Council Member James Gennaro, District-24, Queens**, said. “Our NYC police force, already the best in the world, could use additional tools like microstamping to identify perpetrators of gun violence more readily and we should not deny them any of these tools in their quest to get guns off the streets. Gun violence too often rears its head in our city and the measures called upon in this resolution will help us better regulate guns, help bring those who commit heinous crimes to justice and get illegal guns off the streets. We call upon our state legislature to pass this package of legislation.”

“This package of bills will strengthen several areas of dire importance in keeping guns off our streets,” **Council Member Margaret Chin, District-1, Manhattan**, said. “At a time when guns laws are being steadily weakened at the federal level, New York State must do everything it can to protect its independence when it comes to gun laws. As New Yorkers, we must unite behind these efforts to modernize our gun laws, require microstamping and ban the sale of military grade weapons. These bills will provide more evidence to law enforcement officers when they are investigating crimes, stop the intentional manufacturing of guns that looks like toys; and impose tougher penalties for perpetrators of gun violence. In my district, on the Lower East Side, we have had several shootings and shots fired, presumably related to drugs and gang violence. Many of our communities are deeply divided and our young people are growing up surrounded by violence. I support these efforts to strengthen our gun laws and I urge the State Senate and Assembly to swiftly act and sign these bills into law.”

The resolution introduced at today’s Stated Meeting is in support of the following state legislation:

- S.965 and A.361 (Peralta/Paulin): to prevent the sale of firearms, rifles, and shotguns to criminals and straw purchasers; and to require dealers to obtain liability insurance of at least one million dollars, and impose other conditions for dealers who want to obtain a gun license.
- S.675-C and A.1157-B (Peralta/Schimmel): to require microstamping technology to be used on at least two places of the expended cartridge of all new semiautomatic firearms sold after January 1, 2014. These bills would also establish penalties for anyone who defaces a microstamping component of the gun and establish fines for manufacturers and dealers who violate the microstamping requirement.
- S.2146-A (Golden): to amend the definition of "armor piercing ammunition" to include certain new construction materials, and provide definitions for frangible ammunition and devastator ammunition, thus modernizing the Penal Law by incorporating these deadly technological advances in ammunition.
- A.1014 (Lentol): to redefine the term "disguised gun" to include, but not be limited to, any rifle, pistol, shotgun or machine gun resembling a toy gun and prohibiting the possession, manufacture, or design of such gun. This bill would also establish a new class D felony for anyone who intentionally designs or transforms a gun to resemble a toy gun.
- S.1440 and A.1479 (Squadron/Rosenthal): to replace the current definition of "assault weapon" with a new definition that relies on the characteristics of the weapon. This bill is aimed at banning the possession, sale or manufacture (subject to one exception) of military-style assault weapons that are designed to allow rapid and accurate spray firing.
- S.86 and A.5926 (Squadron/Kavanagh): to ban the possession, sale and use of 50-caliber weapons or larger weapons in the state of New York and would impose additional penalties for the use of a 50-caliber weapon while committing certain felonies. A 50-caliber weapon is one of the most dangerous weapons in the U.S. military's arsenal and is used for long-range tactical assaults by the U.S. Military.