

MOTION

PUBLIC SAFETY

While Los Angeles is experiencing declining homicide and overall crime rates, the level of gun-related crime and carnage remains unacceptable. Constructive measures to combat gun-related crime must still be pursued.

It has been estimated that only one in six guns used to commit crimes is obtained legally, and that many of the rest are stolen, trafficked, or purchased through "straw" buyers. Police officers often waste precious time and resources trying to contact the original purchaser of a gun who later claims it was lost or stolen. Indeed, "straw" buyers often purchase weapons which they pass on to criminals, gang members, and others unable to purchase firearms legally, complicating the task of tracing weapon ownership and solving gun-related crimes.

Gun ownership is a very serious responsibility. Gun owners should be obligated to report immediately to public safety authorities the loss or theft of any firearm. Such a requirement will help police conduct more effective investigations, deprive "straw" purchasers of false excuses, and impress upon lawful gun owners a heightened sense of responsibility in maintaining the safety and security of their stored weapons.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council adopt the following proposed ordinance, to be approved by the City Attorney, as an addition to Chapter V, Article 5 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code.

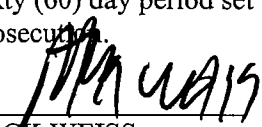
A. Any person that owns or is otherwise in possession of a firearm shall report the theft or loss of such firearm to the Los Angeles Police Department within 48 hours of becoming aware of the theft or loss whenever (1) the owner resides in Los Angeles, or (2) the theft or loss of the firearm occurs in Los Angeles.

B. A person who has experienced the theft or loss of a firearm within the five (5) years prior to the effective date of this ordinance being adopted and who otherwise meets the reporting requirements in Section A above is required to report the loss or theft of such firearm to the Los Angeles Police Department within sixty (60) days of the effective date of this ordinance being adopted.

C. The failure to report within forty-eight (48) hours the theft or loss of a firearm pursuant to Subsection A when the owner or person in possession knew or should have known of the theft or loss, shall be a misdemeanor subjecting the owner to prosecution.


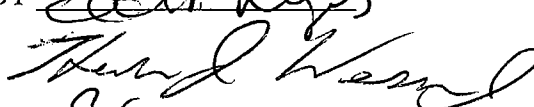

D. The failure to report a firearm theft or loss within the sixty (60) day period set forth in Section B above shall be a misdemeanor subjecting the owner to prosecution.

PRESENTED BY


JACK WEISS

Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY

May 23, 2006

06-1185