

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2016-197**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA, URGING FEDERAL AND STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS TO COLLABORATE WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS AND FIRST RESPONDERS TO PREVENT MASS SHOOTINGS AND LARGE-SCALE HUMAN LOSS OF LIFE AND SUFFERING IN AMERICA BY LIMITING THE AVAILABILITY AND USE OF MILITARY GRADE, HIGH CAPACITY MAGAZINE ASSAULT WEAPONS TO LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.

**WHEREAS**, the confluence of many factors in modern society and easy access to military grade, high-capacity magazine assault weapons, has created circumstances which have led to an unprecedented number of mass shootings in communities in this state and around the country in recent years; and

**WHEREAS**, these types of mass shootings have been occurring with alarming regularity; and

**WHEREAS**, such shootings have taken place at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado (resulting in 13 dead), at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Monroe, Connecticut (resulting in 27 dead), at the Century 16 Movie Theater in Aurora, Colorado (resulting in 12 dead), at a social services office in San Bernardino, California (resulting in 14 dead), and most recently, at the Pulse Nightclub in Orlando, Florida (resulting in 49 dead); and

**WHEREAS**, these attacks result in the tragic death of and serious injury to large numbers of innocent citizens at immeasurable pain and cost to their families and their communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the military scaled weaponry used in these mass shootings exceeds the weaponry generally available to local law enforcement officers, which puts those officers, together with the members of our communities in grave and unnecessary peril; and

**WHEREAS**, military grade high-capacity magazine assault weapons, and the significant hazard they present to communities and innocent citizens, have no valid role in society and are even disavowed by many pro-hunting organizations; and

**WHEREAS**, as indicated through national surveys, a majority of the American public, including legal gun owners, support extensive background checks for gun ownership and also support limiting the availability and use of military grade, high-capacity magazine assault weapons to bone-fide and highly-trained law enforcement agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Senate, following the tragedy at Pulse Nightclub in Orlando, Florida, voted on, but was unable to pass, a proposal to update the background check system for gun purchases, which would have required states to add more information on mental health records to a national database, and which also included a provision to alert law enforcement agencies when an individual who was on a government terror watch list, in the preceding five years, buys a gun; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Senate also voted on, but was unable to pass, a proposal to expand the background check system for those buying guns to require background checks be conducted at gun shows and for online gun purchases; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Senate also voted on, but was unable to pass, a proposal to delay gun sales to individuals included on a government terror watch list, and which also would allow a judge to permanently block a gun purchase if the court determined, with probable cause, that the individual is involved in terrorist activity; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Senate also voted on, but was unable to pass, a proposal that sought to bar all gun sales to individuals on terror watch lists; and

**WHEREAS**, gun violence is a pervasive, national problem that is exacerbated by the availability of semi-automatic assault weapons at gun shows, flea markets, and other organized events; and

**WHEREAS**, over 5,000 gun shows are held annually across the United States, attracting thousands of attendees per show and hundreds of vendors, including unlicensed ones; and

**WHEREAS**, at gun shows, flea markets, and other organized events at which guns are exhibited or sold/exchanged, criminals and others prohibited from owning firearms, obtain guns without background checks and frequently use those guns, which cannot be traced, to commit future crimes; and

**WHEREAS**, one of the principal goals of the United States Constitution, as set forth in its preamble, is “to ensure domestic tranquility;” and

**WHEREAS**, the proliferation of automatic and semi-automatic weapons, as well as high-capacity ammunition devices and magazines, presents a growing problem to law enforcement and to this nation’s domestic tranquility; and

**WHEREAS**, the Florida and United States legislatures have the authority to require, by law or statute, that any unlicensed vendor conduct the same background check of the purchaser as currently required for licensed vendors;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES:**

**SECTION 1.** The foregoing “Whereas” clauses are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true and correct and are hereby made a specific part of this Resolution upon adoption hereof.

**SECTION 2.** That the Coral Gables City Commission calls upon our elected Federal and State Legislative and Executive officials to support safe communities and heed the requests of our City, and other neighboring cities, to enhance the safety of our community and our many gathering places by supporting the desire of a majority of the American public to strictly limit the availability and use of military grade high-capacity assault weapons to bonafide law enforcement agencies and to do so with the sense of urgency and commitment which is warranted in the face of the ongoing, tragic and unnecessary loss of life triggered by mass shootings with these weapons.

**SECTION 3.** That the Coral Gables City Commission urges the United States Congress to reinstate the federal assault weapons ban.

**SECTION 4.** That the Coral Gables City Commission urges the Florida Legislature to impose a state ban on assault weapons or alternatively, to lift the preemption presently in place, in order to allow local governments to impose an assault weapons ban.

**SECTION 5.** That the Coral Gables City Commission directs the City's federal and state lobbyists to lobby for the passage of legislation that imposes an assault weapons ban or, alternatively, allows local governments to impose an assault weapons ban and strengthens the regulations and penalties regarding assault weapons.

**SECTION 6.** That the Coral Gables City Commission directs the City Manager's Office to transmit a copy of this resolution to our state and federal elected officials, and national, state and local municipal and public safety organizations interested in promoting safe community life and preventing mass shootings in American communities, and media outlets who have been reporting on this issue.

**SECTION 7. EFFECTIVE DATE**

This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon the date of its passage and adoption herein.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS twenty-third DAY OF AUGUST, A.D., 2016.  
(Moved: Keon / Seconded: Slesnick)  
(Yeas: Slesnick, Keon, Lago, Quesada, Cason)  
(Unanimous: 5-0 Vote)  
(Non-Agenda Item)

APPROVED:

  
JIM CASON  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
WALTER J. FOEMAN  
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND  
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

  
CRAIG E. LEEN  
CITY ATTORNEY