



CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

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CITY COUNCIL

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LINDSEY P. HORVATH
Councilmember

LAUREN MEISTER
Councilmember

September 22, 2017

Governor Jerry Brown
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown:

**RE: AB 424 (McCarty) Possession of a firearm in a school zone
REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE**

The City of West Hollywood supports AB 424 (McCarty) that would eliminate a school district official's authority to provide written permission for a person to possess a firearm within a school zone. The City of West Hollywood City Council adopted Resolution #17-4956 in support of AB 424. The resolution is attached. AB 424 is on your desk awaiting consideration.

AB 424 will help keep students and school personnel safe from gun violence. California has some of the strongest gun laws in the country including prohibition of guns in schools. However, certain school districts are taking advantage of a loophole in the state law to arm teachers and other staff; a move that is strongly encouraged by gun advocates. Their focus on arming teachers and staff ignores the risks and consequences of bringing more guns on to school grounds. The City agrees with teachers and school safety experts that this loophole needs to be closed.

The City of West Hollywood has a longstanding policy to reduce the availability of firearms, curb gun violence, and enhance public safety. This policy is implemented through its municipal code. In 1994, the City enacted an ordinance banning the sale or possession of semi-automatic assault rifles and of weapons that can be converted into machine-gun type firearms. In 1995, West Hollywood became the first city to prohibit the sale of "Saturday Night Specials", or cheaply made "junk guns" sold at reduced prices. In 2000, the City enacted a ban on large capacity ammunition magazines and, most recently, in 2007 West Hollywood became one of the first cities to require licensed gun dealers to post firearm warnings. The City of West Hollywood continues to actively support measures at both the federal and state levels that propose to reduce gun violence and advance gun control laws that will protect our communities and schools.

The City of West Hollywood urges a signature on AB 424.

Respectfully,

John Heilman
MAYOR

Cc: Hon Kevin McCarty, AD 7
Hon Benjamin Allen, SD 26
Hon Richard Bloom, AD 50



RESOLUTION NO. 17-4956

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD IN SUPPORT OF AB
424 (MCCARTY), TO HELP KEEP GUNS OUT OF
CALIFORNIA'S SCHOOLS

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD DOES
HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS, although California generally prohibits guns in schools, certain school districts are taking advantage of a loophole in the law to arm teachers and other staff; and

WHEREAS, the Gun-Free School Zone Act of 1995 makes it a crime to possess a firearm in a place that the person knows, or reasonably should know, is a school zone, unless it is with the written permission of the school district superintendent, his or her designee, or equivalent school authority; and

WHEREAS, the Gun-Free School Zone Act exempts a person holding a valid license to carry a concealed firearm and a retired peace officer authorized to carry a concealed or loaded firearm; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, California enacted SB 707, which removed the exemption for a person with a concealed carry permit from carrying a firearm into a public or private K-12 school unless there is knowledge and written permission from school officials; and

WHEREAS, opponents of gun control measures have used this loophole in existing law to encourage teachers or other staff to bring guns into schools; and

WHEREAS, AB 424, introduced by Assembly Member Kevin McCarty (D-Sacramento), will close the loophole in existing law by deleting the authority of a school district superintendent, his or her designee, or equivalent school authority to provide written permission for a person to possess a firearm within a school zone; and

WHEREAS, teachers and school safety experts oppose allowing guns in schools, including the American Federation of Teachers and the National Education Association, the nation's two largest teachers' organizations; and


WHEREAS, California schools are extremely safe and the focus on arming teachers and staff ignores the risks and consequences of bringing more guns onto school grounds; and

WHEREAS, the City of West Hollywood has a longstanding history of supporting gun control measures aimed at curbing gun violence and enhancing public safety, including legislation to restrict access to firearms and enhance federal and state gun control laws.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of West Hollywood hereby supports AB 424, to help keep guns out of California's schools.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of West Hollywood at a regular meeting held this 15th day of May, 2017 by the following vote:

AYES:	Councilmember:	D'Amico, Horvath, Meister, Mayor Pro Tempore Duran, and Mayor Heilman.
NOES:	Councilmember:	None.
ABSENT:	Councilmember:	None.
ABSTAIN:	Councilmember:	None.



JOHN HEILMAN, MAYOR

ATTEST:



YVONNE QUARKER, CITY CLERK