



Heart of the Arts

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PALOUSE



Knowledge Corridor

January 23, 2013

Representative Richard Wills, Chair  
House Judiciary, Rules and Administration Committee  
Idaho State Legislature  
PO Box 83720  
Boise, ID 83720-0038

Dear Representative Wills:

The City of Moscow, Idaho is proud of our Police Department. We appreciate their professionalism, fairness, and level-headed approach to law enforcement. We are acutely aware that even in a community like ours, their jobs may require them to put their lives on the line. That's why we take seriously the Department's proposals to prevent gun violence. We respectfully request that you consider the following comments, endorsed by the City Council and Mayor, distilled from a December 28, 2012 memo titled, "Police Recommendations to Reduce Gun Violence."

Recurring mass fatalities involving guns have reignited the national dialogue about government's role in preventing such senseless crimes. Solutions will require thoughtful consideration of policymakers, law enforcement, the public, courts, health officials, and others. It must start with our Legislators, who have oversight of firearms regulation in the state, and it should include the Federal government as well. It is incumbent on lower levels of government, law enforcement agencies, and the public at-large to inform State policymakers about how their decisions affect all of us, where we live, work, and play—in Idaho's cities, towns, neighborhoods, schools, shopping malls, movie theaters, etc. Like the problem, solutions are bound to be complex, involving affordable access to mental health care, regulatory policies and enforcement, public education, and cooperation from manufacturers and the business community.

Enforcement of existing regulations is crucial, but gaps and loopholes pertaining to the sale, trade, and possession of illegal guns and ammunition also need to be closed. Law enforcement officials here recommend consideration of:

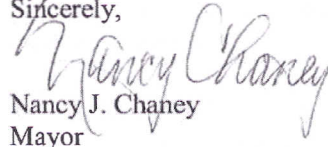
- Mental illness in the issuance of permits;
- Limiting multiple gun sales to an individual within a specified time period;
- Requiring gun purchasers to have a designated extended waiting period and thorough background check;
- Requiring all gun sales, including at gun shows and personal sales, to be federally-documented, traceable, and completed in-person through authorized Federal firearms licensees;
- Increasing penalties for unlawful gun possession and use;
- Limiting access to high-capacity gun magazines;



- Standardizing threat assessment reporting systems through hotlines, social media, or third party reports that warrant confidentiality, anonymity, and witness immunity;
- Controlling the sale of ammunition by:
  - Recording all sales and conducting on-site background checks for disqualification;
  - Prohibiting the sale of armor-piercing bullets and explosive rounds to the public
- Supporting national standards for the issuance and holding of concealed weapons permits, including:
  - Gun safety education and demonstration of proficiency of use;
  - Lawful possession and use, including language for revocation, suspension, or permanent relinquishment when the holder has been judged unfit or has violated a standard in the concealed carry permit regulations;
- Mandating that a ballistic fingerprint is recorded for every gun sold and placed into an A.T.F. database;
- Addressing deficiencies that endanger our communities with:
  - Mandatory reporting of lost or stolen guns;
  - Law enforcement access to ATF's gun sales and tracing databases;
  - Mandating safe storage of guns, including locking or safety devices;
  - Offering voluntary surrender and/or trade back programs for guns;
  - Mandatory seizure or surrender of firearms and ammunition to law enforcement until court status hearings for:
    - Crimes involving violence;
    - Violations of court protective/no-contact orders;
    - Felony drug arrests;
    - Violations related to possession, use, or transport of guns or ammunition;
    - Suicide attempts.

To be sure, the majority of gun owners are law abiding, responsible citizens, who will presumably support a commonsense approach to gun rights and regulations, recommended by frontline professionals, entrusted with enforcing the law and preserving public safety. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Nancy J. Chaney  
Mayor



Walter M. Steed  
City Council President

c: Congressman Raul Labrador  
Congressman Mike Simpson  
Senator James Risch  
Senator Mike Crapo  
Senator Dan Schmidt  
Representative Shirley Ringo  
Representative Cindy Agidius  
Governor Butch Otter

President M. Duane Nellis  
Moscow City Council  
Gary J. Riedner, City Supervisor  
David Duke, Police Chief  
Randy Fife, City Attorney  
Latah County Commissioners  
Sheriff Wayne Rausch  
MSD Superintendent Dale Kleinert

