



Date: July 17, 2007
To: Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Bonnie Lowenthal, Vice Mayor, Councilmember, 1st District *BL*
Gerrie Schipske, Councilwoman, 5th District *GS*
Subject: **Records of Ammunition Sales**

Ammunition sales records are a valuable resource in crime prevention. Records help curb illegal sales and purchases of ammunition. Both federal and state laws prohibit certain convicted individuals from purchasing ammunition, but there are no mechanisms in place to enforce these laws. Because there is no federal background check requirement for ammunition purchases, it is difficult to know when prohibited purchasers, such as felons and domestic violence offenders, attempt to buy ammunition illegally. With a process in place to track ammunition sales, law enforcement officials will be able to identify when an illegal sale has been made.

Requiring vendors engaged in the retail sale of firearms ammunition to keep detailed legible records of ammunition sales would provide law enforcement officials with important information for criminal investigations and deter prohibited purchasers from attempting to buy ammunition.

I would like to respectfully request that the City Council consider an ordinance that requires vendors/retailers selling any form of ammunition for a firearm to maintain a record of the sale and specific information about the purchaser. The record should be developed and provided by the City of Long Beach Police Department and include:

- 1) Date of transaction
- 2) Name, address and date of birth of the purchaser
- 3) Drivers license or other identification number
- 4) Brand and type of ammunition purchased
- 5) Purchaser's signature
- 6) Name of the sales person who processed the transaction
- 7) Thumbprint of the purchaser

The record should be maintained by the vendor/retailer on the premises for a period of 2 years and be available for inspection by the Police Department or other appointed officials.

This type of recorded information would assist police detectives in identifying persons who may have purchased ammunition but are legally prohibited from owning or possessing ammunition.

Recommendation:

Refer the issue of requiring firearms ammunition vendors in the City of Long Beach to keep ammunition sales records to the Public Safety Committee and the Public Safety Advisory Commission for study and recommendation. Also work with surrounding jurisdictions, as well as the Gateway Council of Governments, to potentially adopt the same ordinance.