



January 29, 2013

The Honorable Mike Thompson  
U.S. House of Representatives  
231 Cannon Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Subject: SUPPORT – Comprehensive Approach to Guns Violence

Dear Congressman Thompson:

Like so many Americans, the Santa Rosa City Council and I were devastated to hear of the recent tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. Twenty young children and six adults had their lives taken from them in a senseless act of violence. We have had far too many of these tragedies in recent years, and each time we are hopeful that meaningful steps to prevent and reduce gun violence will be made. However, we have yet to see effective action on this issue. Enough is enough. Now is the time for action.

SCOTT P. BARTLEY  
Mayor

ERIN CARLSTROM  
Vice Mayor

JULIE COMBS  
ERNESTO OLIVARES  
JAKE OURS  
GARY WYSOCKY

We recently learned that you have been appointed Chair of the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force by U.S. House of Representatives Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi. Your experience as a hunter, former co-chair of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus, and your service in Vietnam give you the knowledge, experience and perspective to develop a comprehensive approach to reduce gun violence and strengthen our nation's laws concerning guns and ammunition while protecting law abiding citizens' right to own legitimate firearms for legitimate purposes. I (we) strongly encourage the U.S. Attorney's Office to aggressively prosecute the many gun violence related statutes that currently exist and are law.

Enforcing and strengthening gun laws alone is not enough. We encourage you to take a comprehensive look at the issue of reducing gun violence, and we fully support involving all interested parties in conversations on additional ways to address this issue. This could include efforts such as strengthening the use of background checks, improving mental health services, and keeping military type guns and assault magazines out of our communities, among other efforts.

CITY COUNCIL

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We continue to mourn the loss of so many innocent lives in Newtown and other communities across the country over the past several years. However, your efforts through the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force will help reduce these tragedies in the future so that these victims' lives will not be lost in vain.

Sincerely,

SCOTT P. BARTLEY  
Mayor

SPB/saw

c: U.S. House of Representatives  
Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi  
Santa Rosa City Council  
Senator Barbara Boxer  
Senator Diane Feinstein