

1 **CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO**

2 **RESOLUTION NO. 2016-70**

3 **INTRODUCED BY:**

4
5 Councilor Mike Harris

6 Mayor Javier M. Gonzales

Councilor Signe I. Lindell

7 Councilor Renee D. Villarreal

Councilor Christopher M. Rivera

8 Councilor Peter N. Ives

Councilor Carmichael A. Dominguez

9 Councilor Ronald S. Trujillo

Councilor Joseph M. Maestas

10 **A RESOLUTION**

11 **CALLING ON THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATURE TO REDUCE GUN VIOLENCE BY**
12 **ENACTING LEGISLATION REQUIRING COMPREHENSIVE BACKGROUND**
13 **CHECKS FOR FIREARM SALES AND STRENGTHENING THE CRIMINAL**
14 **BACKGROUND CHECK SYSTEM.**

15
16 **WHEREAS**, an average of 91 Americans are killed with guns every day. Our
17 community and nation have been repeatedly devastated by mass shootings and the daily toll
18 of gun violence that claims more than 30,000 lives each year; and

19 **WHEREAS**, in the last decade, 798 New Mexico residents were murdered with guns,
20 a rate more than 50% higher than the national average; and

21 **WHEREAS**, in the last decade, 2,020 New Mexico residents committed suicide
22 with a firearm, a rate almost double the national average; and

23 **WHEREAS**, the City Council supports common-sense policies that promote public
24 safety in Santa Fe and keep guns out of dangerous hands while respecting the Second
25 Amendment rights of law-abiding gun owners; and

1 **WHEREAS**, under federal law convicted felons, the seriously mentally ill, domestic
2 violence abusers, and other dangerous people are prohibited from possessing guns, and
3 licensed gun dealers are required to conduct background checks on would-be buyers to
4 enforce these prohibitions; and

5 **WHEREAS**, background checks have blocked more than 2.4 million gun sales to
6 criminals and other prohibited purchasers since the federal criminal background check system
7 took effect in 1998; and

8 **WHEREAS**, in New Mexico alone in the last three years for which data is available, the
9 background check system has blocked 5,739 gun sales to prohibited people, including 2,360
10 felons, 1,661 fugitives, and 962 to people convicted of domestic violence misdemeanors or
11 subject to domestic violence protection orders; and

12 **WHEREAS**, a dangerous loophole in the federal background check law undermines
13 public safety by allowing unlicensed, private sellers to sell guns to strangers without
14 background checks and with no questions asked; and

15 **WHEREAS**, unlicensed sellers sell millions of guns without background checks every
16 year in the United States at gun shows, online, through classified advertisements or by other
17 means; and

18 **WHEREAS**, too many of the 30,000 lives lost each year to gun deaths are caused by
19 individuals who are barred from purchasing or possessing guns under federal law but who
20 manage to obtain guns without passing background checks; and

21 **WHEREAS**, over the last decade, New Mexico had the highest national statewide
22 rate of law enforcement officers killed with a handgun that was not their own – a rate over
23 300% higher than the national average; and

24 **WHEREAS**, in states that require background checks for all handgun sales, 46%
25 fewer women are shot to death by intimate partners, 48% fewer law enforcement are shot to

1 death with handguns, and there is 48% less gun trafficking; and

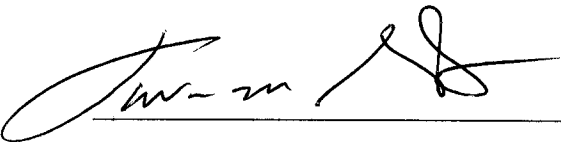
2 **WHEREAS**, 92% of Americans and 82% of gun owners support background checks
3 for all gun sales; and

4 **WHEREAS**, countless law enforcement, gun violence prevention, civil rights, and
5 domestic violence organizations, as well as faith communities, support background checks for all
6 gun sales.

7 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF**
8 **THE CITY OF SANTA FE** that the Governing Body hereby supports the New Mexico State
9 Legislature enacting legislation which requires comprehensive background checks for firearm
10 sales and which strengthens the criminal background check system.

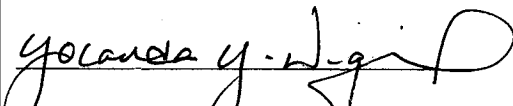
11 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Clerk is directed to forward a copy of
12 this resolution to the Governor of New Mexico, the President Pro Tempore of the New
13 Mexico Senate, the Speaker of the House of the New Mexico House of Representatives, and
14 the City of Santa Fe State Legislative Delegation.

15 PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 14th day of September, 2016.


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17 

18 ATTEST:

JAVIER M. GONZALES, MAYOR

19
20 
21 YOLANDA Y. VIGIL, CITY CLERK

22 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

23 
24
25 KELLEY BRENNAN, CITY ATTORNEY

M/Legislation/Resolutions 2016/2016-70 Gun Legislation Support