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HALL OF JUSTICE
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February 09, 2022

The Honorable Michael N. Feuer
Los Angeles City Attorney
200 North Main Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Re: Gun Violence Prevention Recommendations

City Attorney Feuer,

Thank you for sharing your eight-point plan to address gun violence in the City of Los Angeles. Gun violence continues to be a public health crisis in America and has done great harm to countless individuals and communities throughout our county. The Los Angeles County District Attorney's (LADA) Office is committed to working with you to tackle these complex issues and will support efforts to reduce gun violence. I share your passion in seeking a collaborative approach to dealing with this ongoing epidemic. Although some points raised in your plan involve resources specific to LA City there are other areas where my Office can assist in responding to ongoing gun violence. Our office has identified areas, listed below, where we can provide the most effective and immediate assistance. This list is by no means exhaustive, rather, ways by which we believe we can effectively collaborate with the City's efforts.

Create a cross-jurisdictional Gun Crime Violence Review Commission

As part of my commitment to utilizing a data-driven approach to the criminal legal system, I hired LADA's first crime intelligence analyst. This analyst, as well as other members of the DA's Bureau of Investigation (BOI), work collaboratively to identify communities dealing with the greatest impacts of street violence. Additionally, last year I formed the Community Violence Reduction Division which works closely with our law enforcement partners to combat street violence. Deputy District Attorneys are embedded in communities to build relationships and trust to reduce crime. Representatives from LADA BOI and the Community Violence Reduction Division are ready to participate in a Gun Violence Review Commission and will use their knowledge and experiences to create and implement prevention strategies.

Create a Neighborhood Solutions Program

As mentioned above, the Community Violence Reduction Division is currently active in three LAPD Divisions: 77th, Foothill and Newton. This division seeks to proactively prevent crime by working with community-based organizations and county partners that deal with victim services, public health and violence prevention. In launching this division, my goal was to create a

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community-first model, reflective of the particular needs of individual communities, that would be replicated throughout the county. I invite collaboration with this division to build upon our community first model.

Support LAPD's Gun Unit

This year my Office launched the Bureau of Investigation, Community Violence Interdiction Team (CVIT) in partnership with the Los Angeles County Probation Department to support the Office's effort to reduce violence in some of the most challenged areas within the county of Los Angeles. Investigators assigned to the unit collaborate with prosecutors, crime analysts, law enforcement partners, community members, public health entities and social services to address violent crime "hot spots" throughout the County. The goal of CVIT is to reduce community violence in Los Angeles County through crime prevention, intervention, interruption, and enforcement actions. This team recognizes that a collaborative effort is needed to successfully reduce violent crime in a meaningful and long-term way. CVIT will work with LAPD's gun unit, where appropriate, to combat gun violence.

Additionally, earlier this week I partnered with LAPD Chief Michel Moore as well as the Los Angeles County Police Chief's Association, which represents 45 independent cities in LA County, to call on major credit card companies to stop using their networks to process transactions for ghost gun kits. These weapons are purchased with no valid background checks, often merely requiring the buyer to self-certify. This means that someone who is legally disqualified by virtue of a felony domestic violence conviction, mental illness or being underage can easily purchase a ghost gun kit by making a false and untested certification. As you are well-aware, the number of ghost guns recovered by LAPD has increased nearly 400 percent since 2017. The proliferation of ghost guns is directly correlated with the sharp rise in violent crime.

Our response to the gun violence epidemic must be innovative, collaborative and targeted. Future generations of Angelenos can benefit from the decisions we make to today to address increasing street violence. I look forward to partnering with you and other organizations to combat this public health crisis.

Sincerely,



George Gascon
District Attorney