

**TOWNSHIP OF BYRAM
RESOLUTION NO. -2017**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE
MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF BYRAM TOWNSHIP
TO COMMIT TO PREVENTING GUN VIOLENCE**

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Township of Byram do hereby:

- Express its condolences and support for the victims of gun violence and their families, particularly in the wake of the most recent massacres in Las Vegas, Nevada and Sutherland Springs, Texas; and
- Express its support for law enforcement officers and other first responders who protect our community and whose lives are put at greater risk due to the proliferation of illegal firearms; and
- Express its firm belief that solutions to end gun violence must be multi-faceted and include consideration of everything from mental health issues to violent “entertainment” to firearm availability; and
- Call on all national, state and local community leaders to work together – in a spirit of cooperation – to find solutions to end gun violence, particularly as it affects children; and
- Call on members of the Byram community to engage each other in a civil, reasonable, productive discussion of ways in which we can prevent gun violence in our community; and

WHEREAS, local taxpayers must bear the financial burden of the threat of gun violence with the need for increased presence of police personnel, with the installation and use of bulletproof vests, military style weapons, and enhanced security and protective features at schools, public buildings and vehicles that result in an added tax burden; and

WHEREAS, elected officials have a responsibility to protect their communities by holding gun offenders and irresponsible gun dealers accountable, demanding access to trace data that is critical to law enforcement efforts to combat illegal gun trafficking and working with legislators to fix gaps, weaknesses and loopholes in the law that make it far too easy for criminals and other prohibited purchasers to get guns; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council support reasonable gun regulations, curbing the use of semi-automatic weapons, better mental health care, banning military-style weapons and making gun trafficking a federal crime and recognize that military weapons with no civilian use have no place in civil society; and

WHEREAS, universal background checks that require a background check on all purchasers before they obtain a gun will help reduce the murder and gun violence rate; and

WHEREAS, Congress has effectively banned the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention from study of the effects of gun violence on public health due to pressure from the gun lobby; and

WHEREAS, illegal trafficking of guns from states with weak laws to states with strong laws undermines the safety of Byram residents; and

WHEREAS proposed Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act legislation that would let Americans from states with looser gun laws carry concealed firearms in more restrictive states like New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, most mass shootings start as domestic violence incidents and women are too often killed by abusers with firearms; and

WHEREAS, when guns in homes are safely secured, children cannot have access to guns;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Byram, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey that they:

- Support lethal, military-style weapons and high-capacity magazines being kept off our streets by restoring the 1994 ban on assault weapons and large-capacity gun magazines; and
- Support criminal background checks being mandated on all gun sales within the United States and databases being effectively maintained; and
- Oppose the proposed Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act which potentially weakens the strong concealed carry laws in New Jersey; and
- Support Congress eliminating the NRA backed amendment that restricts the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention from researching the relationship between gun violence and public health and begin funding meaningful studies on the effects of gun violence on public health; and
- Support measures being enacted to make gun trafficking a Federal crime.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be forwarded to President Donald Trump, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer, House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Senator Cory Booker, Senator Bob Menendez, Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen, Governor Chris Christie, State Senator Steven Oroho, State Assemblypersons, Parker Space and Gail Phoebus.