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*****PRESS RELEASE*****

**SUPERVISOR CATHERINE STEFANI AND CITY ATTORNEY DAVID CHIU
INTRODUCE ORDINANCE PROHIBITING GUNS FROM SENSITIVE PLACES**

SAN FRANCISCO -- Today, District 2 Supervisor Catherine Stefani and City Attorney David Chiu announced bold new legislation to help make San Francisco's public spaces safer from gun violence. This ordinance redefines city law to expand places where firearms are prohibited to include election facilities, hospitals, parks, places of worship, grocery stores, restaurants, and more.

"Every day, gun violence takes lives, devastates families, and destroys communities. Every day, our public spaces are at risk of gun violence erupting, often putting our most vulnerable in danger," says Supervisor Catherine Stefani. "I'm introducing this legislation to help make San Francisco safer. By prohibiting firearms in sensitive places such as hospitals, places of worship, public parks, movie theaters, and more, we can take a significant step towards preventing future tragedies and restore a greater sense of security for residents."

"As Americans endure yet another year of deadly mass shootings, we must do more to protect our communities from gun violence," said City Attorney David Chiu. "The Second Amendment was never intended to prevent people from safely exercising other fundamental rights like going to school, voting in person, or worshipping. There is a longstanding expectation that these sensitive areas should be free of firearms, and that expectation should be enshrined in the law."

Gun violence plagues our country, and our city continues to suffer from firearms proliferating on our streets. Tragically, shootings in San Francisco have risen dramatically over the last five years, increasing by 74% resulting in nearly 900 victims with 158 people killed in that timeframe. This year alone, there have been 589 incidents where a perpetrator used a gun when committing a crime.

"The Supreme Court opened the door for more guns in more places in California, but thanks to our local leaders, today we are safer," said Celeste Perron, a volunteer with the California Chapter of Moms Demand Action. "This ordinance will help keep guns from places where they

simply don't belong. We are grateful to local leaders for their steadfast leadership and prioritizing gun safety in San Francisco.”

“It takes the hood to save the hood,” said Rudy Corpuz of United Playaz. “We will continue to push and fight for more gun violence prevention legislation that will protect our communities.”

Broadly allowing individuals to carry firearms in most public areas increases the number of people wounded and killed by gun violence. Study after study concludes that states allowing individuals to carry firearms in public leads to an increase in violent crime. More than violent crime, ever present weapons impede the ability to learn, worship, and gather in peace. It's clear that more action is needed to protect our public spaces.

"On behalf of Healing for Our Families & Our Nation, Brady United Against Gun Violence and Mothers in Charge, I want to 'Thank You' for this bold new legislation to help keep San Francisco residents, our children and families, places of worship, our visiting tourists and everyone safe," said Mattie Scott from the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence San Francisco's chapter. "This is about all of us or none of us! Thank you, Supervisor Stefani, and City Attorney David Chiu, for all you have done and are doing to keep our city safe!"

We cannot accept the status quo. San Franciscans should not fear going to the grocery store or out to eat. Gathering at our city's parks and playing in playgrounds should not come with worries about gun violence erupting. We must do better to protect our public spaces where firearms have long been prohibited – especially in places frequented by San Francisco's most vulnerable.

“Succumbing to extremists' views on firearms, our country has allowed gun violence to devastate too many lives and break entire communities. I've felt and seen the tragedy of losing a loved one to gun violence first-hand, and unfortunately, the community of those personally affected like me grows every day. It's despicable that we have leaders who fail to act,” said Golden State Warriors Head Coach Steve Kerr. “I commend Supervisor Catherine Stefani for stepping up and continuing to take action. We should not live in fear of shootings erupting in our public places. Because of this piece of legislation, San Francisco will be safer.”

Supervisor Stefani will formally introduce the legislation at the June 13, 2023, meeting of the Board of Supervisors.

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