[Urging County Health Officials to Assess Public Health Impacts from Panic Buying Weapons]

Resolution urging county health officials from the six Bay Area counties, Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara to evaluate the public health threat of panic buying weapons and to warn Americans of the danger of panic buying weapons.

WHEREAS, The global pandemic known as the COVID-19 crisis, has created a rush on gun stores for weapons and ammunition; and

WHEREAS, The NRA has induced such panic buying by engaging in reckless fear-mongering, using this national crisis as an excuse to grow corporate profits and scare more people into buying guns; and

WHEREAS, More guns do not keep Americans safe because in reality, nearly 400 million civilian-owned guns in America have not stopped 40,000 annual gun deaths and thousands of gun injuries; and

WHEREAS, Multiple studies have concluded that where there are more guns, there are more gun deaths and more guns do not stop more crimes; and

WHEREAS, More guns in homes during these precarious times compounds the risks of death and serious injury likely to further increase our hospital loads; and

WHEREAS, The enormous negative economic impacts are a major driver of suicides and domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, With many people forced to stay home with their abusers, domestic violence situations can become even more dangerous; and

WHEREAS, Cities across the country are already seeing dramatic spikes in domestic violence calls, including a 33% increase of calls on the San Francisco domestic violence.
hotline from March 1 to March 25, 2020; in March alone, from March 1 to March 10, 2020, and March 11 to March 25, 2020, the calls to the domestic violence hotline more than doubled; and

WHEREAS, When a firearm is present in a domestic violence situation, women are five times more likely to be killed; and

WHEREAS, In the United States, 4.6 million children live in homes with unlocked and loaded guns and an average of eight children are killed by unintentional shootings every day; and

WHEREAS, Firearm injury is the second leading cause of death for American children and young adults; and

WHEREAS, More guns in our home during a time when millions of school children are home due to the COVID-19 stay-at-home orders will result in more unintentional gun deaths and injuries; and

WHEREAS, Trauma surgeons across the country have stated that panic buying of guns and ammunition will fill the hospital beds with gunshot victims from unintentional shootings, suicides and homicides during a time when hospital beds are critically necessary for COVID-19 patients; and

WHEREAS, Panic purchases of guns and ammunition during the national emergency will result in more lives lost; and

WHEREAS, We are seeing reports of spikes in calls to domestic violence and suicide hotlines all across the country, a trend that is appearing worldwide as we continue to fight this global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, A run on gun stores poses a public health risk if new buyers aren’t properly trained, new guns aren’t stored properly and background checks aren’t completed; and
WHEREAS, Short of deeming whether a gun store is an essential business or not, these public health risks cannot be ignored and must be properly addressed whether deemed essential or non-essential; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges that county health officials from the six Bay Area counties, Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara, evaluate the public health threat of panic buying firearms; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That county health officials should be warning Americans about the danger of panic buying weapons.
Resolution urging county health officials from the six Bay Area counties, Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara to evaluate the public health threat of panic buying weapons and to warn Americans of the danger of panic buying weapons.

April 07, 2020 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED
    Ayes: 11 - Fewer, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, Walton and Yee

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 4/7/2020 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without her approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board