RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, on December 14, 2012, twenty children and six educators were massacred at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut by an assailant with an assault weapon and multiple thirty-round magazines of ammunition; and

WHEREAS, in the wake of the Newtown, Connecticut tragedy, leaders in several states and municipalities have committed to pursue legislation to curb gun violence; and

WHEREAS, due to prohibitions in the Texas Local Government Code Austin, unlike cities in other states, must rely on legislative action at the state or federal level to effect changes related to firearm and ammunition sales; and

WHEREAS, on December 18, 2012, the U.S. Conference of Mayors issued an open letter to President Barack Obama and the U.S. Congress calling for "stronger gun laws, a reversal of the culture of violence in this country, a commission to examine violence in the nation, and more adequate funding for the mental health system"; and

WHEREAS, on December 19, 2012, Austin Mayor Lee Leffingwell, as a member of the Mayors Against Illegal Guns, joined this bipartisan coalition of more than 850 mayors in urging President Obama to take immediate and near-term actions to make it harder for dangerous people to illegally possess guns, and easier for police and prosecutors to crack down on them; and

WHEREAS, the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) released a statement in January 2013 supporting President Obama's effort to develop a comprehensive approach to reducing gun crime, with recommendations to close the loophole that allows sales without background checks, adopt an effective federal firearms trafficking statute, limit the size of ammunition magazines, restrict military-style guns, and improve the databases on which background checks are based; and

WHEREAS, the International Association of Police Chiefs' (IACP) Legislative Agenda includes support of an assault weapon ban and support of required background checks for all gun sales, including private sales; and

WHEREAS, various solutions have been suggested to encourage background checks on private sales at gun shows, including the suggestion that a gun show organizer could provide a central area for attendees to undergo one background check before making any firearm purchase at the show; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin Public Safety Commission endorsed several policy initiatives at its February 2013 meeting, including recommending that staff explore methods for collecting information about the source of guns used in Austin crimes; **NOW THEREFORE,**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN

That the City Council strongly supports Mayor Lee Leffingwell's membership in Mayors Against Illegal Guns, endorses the statement and efforts of the organization, and supports President Obama's effort to develop a comprehensive approach to reducing gun crime.

The Council urges leaders at the state and federal level to enact legislation that requires background checks for all gun sales, provides for prosecution of straw purchasers and gun traffickers, limits the size of ammunition magazines, puts reasonable restrictions on public ownership of military-style guns, and

improves the accuracy and completeness of background check databases to ensure the safety of our citizens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

That the Council directs the City Manager to explore methods for collecting data about the source of guns involved in Austin crimes and to report back to the Public Health and Human Services Subcommittee and to the Public Safety Commission by May 1, 2013.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

That the City Manager is directed to send copies of this Resolution to our state and federal government representatives, including the President of the United States, the Congressional leadership, the Congressional delegation representing Austin, the Governor and Lieutenant Governor of the State of Texas, the Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives, and the Texas legislative delegation representing Austin.

ADOPTED: _____, 2013   **ATTEST:** _____

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk