



Legislation Text

File #: Res 0158-2006, **Version:** *

Res. No. 158

Resolution calling on the New York State Legislature to enact a Gun Offender Registry Act, which would be modeled after New York State's Sexual Offender Registry Act.

By Council Members Vallone Jr., Gentile, Nelson, Recchia Jr., Weprin, White Jr., Foster and Oddo

Whereas, While New York continues to make great strides towards being a safer place to live, gun crimes continue to afflict New Yorkers and especially the victims and their grieving families, as guns have taken the lives of 7,000 individuals in New York State since 1999; and

Whereas, Guns are often used to carry out sexual assaults and domestic violence, drug offenses, robbery, burglary and other property-related crimes, and according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics about 70% of all murders, 41% of all robberies, and 19% of all aggravated assaults in 2004 reported to the police were committed with a firearm in the United States; and

Whereas, Guns pose a serious risk to police officers, given that in the last six months of 2005, 11 New York City police officers were shot; and

Whereas, According to statistics published by Physicians for Social Responsibility, a public policy organization committed to eliminating violence, in 2001 homicide with a firearm was the leading cause of violent death in New York and the total cost of gun violence nationwide was approximately \$100 million, illustrating that gun regulation can save both lives and money; and

Whereas, In 1996 New York enacted its version of Megan's Law-the Sex Offender Registration Act (Correction Law Article 6-C (Section 168 et seq.))-in which a court classifies convicted sex offenders according to three different levels and pursuant to that designation, offenders are required to register with the Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) for either 20 years or life and annually verify his or her address with DCJS,

as well as further obligations; and

Whereas, Because of the integral part that the Sex Offender Registration Act plays in ensuring safety for the State's children and communities in general, the statute has been continually expanded, and a Gun Registry Act similarly constructed would reaffirm New York's commitment to safety and crime control, as articulated by Mayor Bloomberg in his recent State of the City address; and

Whereas, Legislation that requires the registration of convicted gun offenders will allow state and local law enforcement to better monitor firearm violators, and provide communities and families with the tools to become aware of violators living in the area, which would collectively serve to deter both registered and potential gun offenders from engaging in gun-activity again; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the city of New York calls upon the New York State Legislature to enact a Gun Offender Registry Act, which would be modeled after New York State's Sexual Offender Registry Act.

TB
LS#240