

# NEWS

FROM THE OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER  
**PAUL KORETZ**  
FIFTH DISTRICT



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## For Immediate Release

### Los Angeles City Councilmembers Koretz, Krekorian and O'Farrell Aim to Require Firearm Liability Insurance For Gun Owners

FEBRUARY 2, 2022 – LOS ANGELES, CA – Today Councilmembers Paul Koretz (CD5), Paul Krekorian (CD2), and Mitch O'Farrell (CD13) introduced a motion asking the City Attorney to explore the implementation of an ordinance that would require gun owners in the City of Los Angeles to carry firearm liability insurance, similar to a proposed ordinance recently taken up by the City of San Jose, CA. that would require gun owners to purchase liability insurance through their homeowner's or renter's insurance as well as pay an annual fee that would go toward evidence-based initiatives to reduce gun violence and gun harm.

"Not every household has a gun, and while not all communities experience high levels of gun violence, we all bear the economic burden of injuries and deaths caused by firearms," said **Councilmember Paul Koretz**. "Insurance-based systems can encourage firearm owners to take safety classes, ensure guns are safely stored, install trigger locks, or utilize loaded chamber indicators. Just like auto insurers use risk-adjusted premiums to reward good driving and encourage the use of airbags and other safety features, reducing per-mile auto fatalities by 80 percent in four decades, we need a similar approach to address the risks posed by guns."

"Gun violence in Los Angeles inflicts a catastrophic and unnecessary toll on people's lives, in addition to costing taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars every year," said **Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell**. "We must bring the epidemic of gun violence under control, and that means looking at every possible reform. Angelenos deserve a safe City."

"This reasonable move will promote the use of common sense measures to keep families and neighbors safe" said **Councilmember Paul Krekorian**. "This ordinance will go hand in hand with a law I wrote in 2015 that requires all handgun owners in Los Angeles to lock their guns or disable them with a trigger lock when kept in the home. I look forward to a swift analysis from the City Attorney."

At a moment when every dollar counts, the human and economic toll of gun violence in the City of Los Angeles is devastating. Nearly 1.17 million new firearms were registered in 2020 in California, with handgun sales up 65.5 percent from the year before. In 2021, the City of Los Angeles had 397 homicides, up 11.8 percent from 355 killings the previous year and up 53.9 percent from 258 in the pre-pandemic year of 2019. That number was the highest figure since 2007 when the city recorded 395 homicides. The Los Angeles Police Department also reported 1,459 victims shot in 2021, a 54.2 percent increase over 2019, when 946 people were shot in the city.

Nationally, 75 percent of school shootings are carried out by kids who have access to unsecured or unsupervised guns at home. Over 80 percent of teens who commit suicide with a gun used one that belonged to someone in their home, and every day 8 children are shot with an improperly stored or misused gun found in the home.

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