

NEWS

FROM THE OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER
PAUL KORETZ
FIFTH DISTRICT



For Immediate Release

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City Council Passes Koretz Motion to Audit Gun Violence Prevention Programs

November 12, 2021 – Los Angeles, CA – Today the Los Angeles City Council voted to pass a [motion](#) asking the City Controller to undertake an audit of all previous and ongoing gun violence prevention programs and policies implemented in the City of Los Angeles to determine the efficacy of those programs and make recommendations related to the allocation of funding and resources to ensure the City’s gun violence prevention efforts are as effective and extensive as possible.

Like most cities in the United States, Los Angeles has experienced a disturbingly sharp increase in homicides year over year with roughly two-thirds involving the use of a firearm. Although there is no simple explanation for those gun-related deaths, the pandemic has certainly played a role compounding massive job loss, business closures, and related loss of housing. The climate of uncertainty, social tension and crime point coupled with a sharp increase in firearm purchases in the last 18 months seem to have created a perfect storm for the daily gun violence on our streets.

“Of course, every single life lost to gun violence is far too many. However, with the recent sharp uptick of gun-related number of homicides in our City, we now have a very serious gun problem even though we have passed a number of gun control measures over the years,” said Councilmember Paul Koretz. “The time has come to look at the programs, their impacts, if we are going to successfully keep the most dangerous guns out of society and off of our streets and keep guns out of the hands of the most dangerous people.”

While the number of homicides in the city is well below the 1990s -- Los Angeles and New York accounted for 13.8 percent of homicides in 1990, compared with 3.8 percent in 2020. In response to the surge in the 1990s, the City of Los Angeles launched a variety of social, youth and community sustainability programs intended to curb gun violence including the LAPD’s Jeopardy Program, gang intervention workers, the Mayor’s Office of Gang Reduction and Youth Development, and gun buy-back programs.

The Council File 21-1118 is available [here](#).