



Bicoastal Push For Large Capacity Magazine Ban

By Liz Benjamin

March 2, 2011

The City Councils in LA and NYC introduced simultaneous resolutions today in support of federal legislation to ban large capacity ammunition magazines of the sort used by alleged Arizona shooter Jared Lee Loughner.

Manhattan Councilwoman Gale Brewer authored the NY measure, called it “common sense legislation which aims to protect innocent people from violence,” adding:

“There is no need for the average citizen to possess a weapon which can hold more than ten rounds of ammunition. Large capacity ammunition magazines are a serious threat to American citizens, and a federal ban is the only way to ensure that these dangerous weapons stay off of our streets.”

In LA, Council President Eric Garcetti, City Councilmember Paul Koretz, and City Attorney Carmen Trutanich joined with LAPD Chief Charlie Beck, to call on Congress to pass the ban, which is being sponsored by Long Island Rep. Carolyn McCarthy.

Beck noted that his organization is the third-largest police department in the nation, responsible for patrolling 470 square miles and protecting a population of nearly 4 million people.

“Even as crime has declined significantly in the city over the past several years, large capacity ammunition magazines are still being used by violent street gangs,” the LAPD chief said. “Common sense restrictions on these magazines would help LAPD officers better protect the public and themselves.”

These magazines were included in the assault weapons ban passed in 1994, but the measure (formally known as the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act) expired in 2004 and has not been reauthorized by Congress.

This effort is being coordinated by the Citizens Crime Commission of NYC, which is headed by 2009 Manhattan DA candidate Richard Aborn. Aborn, the former Brady Campaign president, is credited with spearheading the effort to include the original ban on large-capacity magazines in the assault weapons ban.

Last month, the Citizens Crime Commission released a PSA Web video featuring Law & Order star Vincent D’Onofrio announcing his support for McCarthy’s bill.

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