

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REQUIRING THAT ONLY
FEDERAL FIREARMS LICENSE VENDORS BE ALLOWED TO SELL
FIREARMS AT GUN SHOWS HELD ON PIMA COUNTY-OWNED PROPERTY

WHEREAS, firearm-related violence represents a growing public health and safety threat to all Pima County inhabitants. In 2020, 213 persons were killed with firearms. So far in 2021, 134 persons have perished (1); and

WHEREAS, firearm-related violence disproportionately threatens the public health and safety of minority populations within Pima County. Both Blacks (90 per 100,000) and Native-Americans (59 per 100,000) have firearm-related death rates in excess of Whites (50 per 100,000) (1); and

WHEREAS, firearm-related violence represents a staggering human and economic cost to Pima County. In 2020, there were 541 hospital and emergency visits (437 persons) for firearm-related injuries (53 fatal, 488 non-fatal) (1); and

WHEREAS, billed hospitalization costs for those injuries totaled \$28,260,808. 72% of those costs were defrayed by public funds. Based on current numbers of firearm hospitalizations, it is estimated that firearm injuries in 2021 have cost \$9,768,506 (1); and

WHEREAS, in 2010, the Centers for Disease Control estimated that medical and work loss costs for firearm-related violence in Arizona averaged over \$1,000,000 per victim (1). Other significant firearm-related violence costs not accounted for include: emergency response, law enforcement, criminal justice, incarceration and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, "prohibited possessors"* accounted for 21% (205 out of 958) of all persons charged with firearm-related violent crimes in Pima County in 2020 (2); and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives conducted a "sting" operation on June 19-20, 2021 at the Crossroads of the West Gun Show held at the Pima County Fairgrounds targeting "straw purchasers"** (2); and

WHEREAS, secondary (non Federal Firearms License) vendors at the Crossroads of the West Gun Show held at the Pima County Fairgrounds can sell firearms to buyers without determining if that person is a "prohibited possessor", "straw purchaser" and/or "gun trafficker"***; and

WHEREAS, background checks are the only way to identify and prevent "prohibited possessors", "straw purchasers" and/or "gun traffickers" from purchasing firearms; and

WHEREAS, Pima County through both the Board of Supervisors and its Health Department, has broad authority to take actions necessary to protect the public health and safety of all

Pima County's inhabitants, see A.R.S. 11-251 (17); A.R.S. Title 36, Chapter 1, Article 4; Marsoner v. Pima County, 166 Ariz. 486, including authority to adopt and enforce "regulations necessary for the public health and safety of the inhabitants." (3)

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Pima County Board of Supervisors, in order to protect the public health and safety of Pima County inhabitants, requires that only Federal Firearms License vendors be allowed to sell firearms at gun shows on Pima County-owned property.

Passed by the Board of Supervisors, this ____ day of _____, 2021.

Sharon Bronson, Chair
Pima County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

* A "prohibited possessor" is a person who is legally restricted from owning firearms.

** A "straw purchaser" is a person who buys firearm(s) with the intent of giving the firearm(s) to another person for their primary use.

*** A "gun trafficker" is a person engaged in the illicit trade of firearms and ammunition.

Sources:

(1) Pima County Health Department

(2) Pima County Attorney's Office

(3) taken from Pima County Board of Supervisors Resolution 2020-96