

VIP- JONATHAN T.



BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

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December 19, 2012

Honorable Dianne Feinstein

United States Senate

331 Hart Senate Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20510

12 DEC 31 PM 3:53

Dear Senator Feinstein:

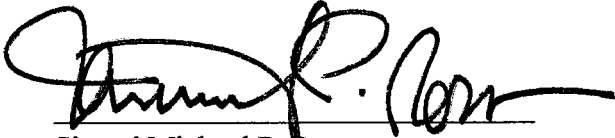
The undersigned members of the Boston City Council offer their full support to your proposal to renew a federal assault weapons ban and to include prohibitions on other high-capacity magazines. We thank you for your continued efforts towards this common-sense policy goal and stand firmly behind your forthcoming legislation. Our City Council and Mayor Thomas Menino are dedicated to strengthening gun safety laws and ensuring that no man, woman or child in Boston or beyond becomes the victim of a crime perpetuated through the use of an assault weapon.

The issue of gun control and gun violence is one that is faced on a daily basis in Boston and other municipalities throughout the country. Even in places like Massachusetts, where we have some of the toughest gun laws and second-lowest gun death rate in the nation, the absence of stronger federal protections jeopardizes the advances made by local efforts. Authorities in Massachusetts recovered 1,737 firearms used in crimes in 2011 and nearly two-thirds of those weapons originated outside our state. Often the guns procured for these crimes are obtained through the legal loopholes our laws have failed to address.

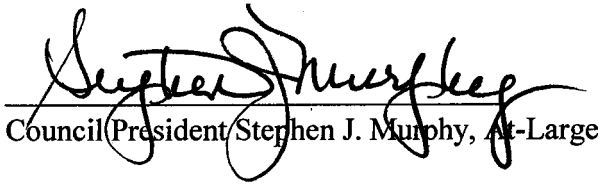
As has been well-publicized, six of the twelve deadliest shootings in the U.S. have occurred since 2007, including the horrific event that took place last week in Newtown, Connecticut. Locally, Boston has seen its own dramatic rise in the use of guns to perpetrate homicides – now used in more than 85% of homicides in our City, up from 40% in the mid-1970s and up nearly 20% since the last federal assault weapons ban ended in 2004.

The time has certainly come to take a strong stand against the sale and ownership of the type of weapons that have led to the senseless death of so many of our fellow citizens. We must do all we can to ensure people feel safe not only in our malls, movie theaters, and grocery stores, but especially in our homes, schools, and places of worship.

We applaud your efforts and wish to give our support for the purposes of this legislation's passing.



Signed Michael P. Ross
Chair of Public Safety Committee



Council President Stephen J. Murphy, At-Large



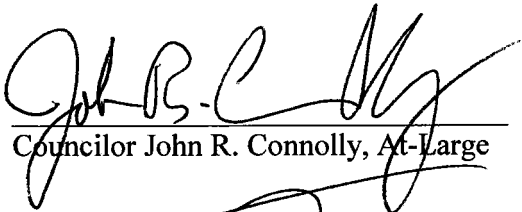
Councilor Felix G. Arroyo, At-Large



Councilor Frank Baker, District 3



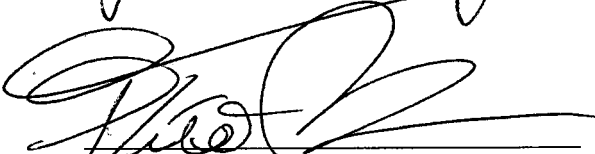
Councilor Mark Ciommo, District 9



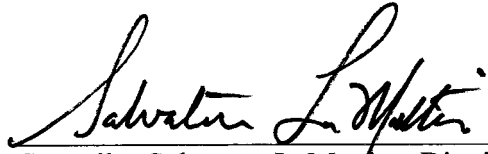
Councilor John R. Connolly, At-Large



Councilor Rob Consalvo, District 5



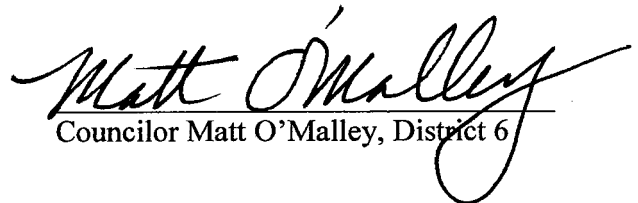
Councilor Tito Jackson, District 7



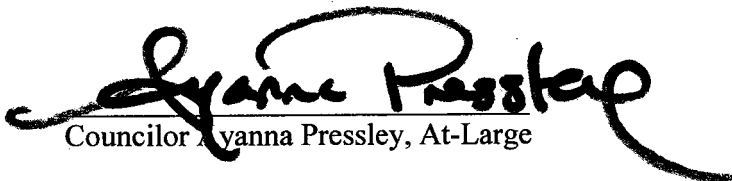
Councilor Salvatore LaMattina, District 1



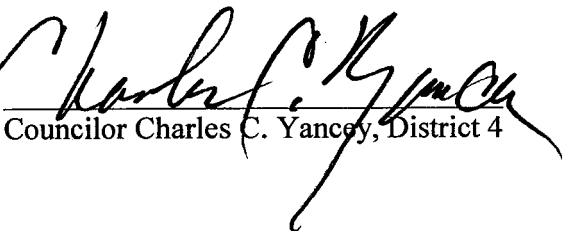
Councilor Bill Linehan, District 2



Councilor Matt O'Malley, District 6



Councilor Yanna Pressley, At-Large



Councilor Charles C. Yancey, District 4