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**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN  
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**Moving Forward with Improving Access to Gun Violence Restraining Orders**

A 2016 California law, known more commonly as the “red flag law,” allows certain eligible people, including law enforcement, family members, intimate partners, housemates, employers, co-workers, and school officials, to petition a court for a Gun Violence Restraining Order (GVRO). If granted by the court, the GVRO would mandate that the subject of the petition, who is deemed a threat to themselves or others, have firearms or ammunition removed from their possession for up to five years (with options to petition to the judge to lift the order once a year). It also prohibits those subject to a GVRO from purchasing firearms or ammunition, meaning a GVRO can be filed with respect to a person who does not currently possess a gun in order to prevent them from purchasing one in the future to inflict harm on themselves or others.

While this law has great potential to prevent gun violence and save lives, it is drastically underutilized in Los Angeles County, especially by members of the public. In 2022, a total of only 66 GVROs were granted countywide, and only one of those was requested by a non-law enforcement party. This is in stark contrast to San Diego County, which issued more than 400 GVROs in 2022 despite having a population nearly one third the size of Los Angeles County. This red flag law has the potential to save lives by preventing people from using firearms to harm themselves or other people, but in order for it to be effective there needs to be widespread

MOTION

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awareness and understanding of the law and how to access GVROs. That is why the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board) passed the motion “Improving Access to Gun Violence Restraining Orders” on February 28, 2023, directing the Department of Public Health - Office of Violence Prevention (OVP) to report back with a plan to implement a culturally and linguistically relevant public awareness campaign about GVROs, options to establish a process to collect data on GVROs, and recommendations for assigning responsibility within Los Angeles County for streamlining and enhancing the GVRO process.

On July 7, OVP released the report back to the motion that described the need to spread awareness about GVROs and support access to them in LA County. The report presented a series of recommendations that would designate OVP as the lead entity in coordinating the efforts to improve access to GVROs through a public awareness campaign, data collection, training and system navigation support, and communication and coordination with law enforcement and community partners. The recommendations are divided into two categories: actions that can be done immediately within existing resources, and actions that will require additional financial and personnel resources.

This motion directs OVP to move forward with the plan laid out in the July 7 report back and implement the recommendations that can be done within existing resources. This includes beginning the public awareness campaign by launching a website and disseminating information about GVROs; collecting, synthesizing, and publicly sharing existing data on GVROs; advocating for better access to accurate data from the courts and law enforcement; and providing training on

GVROs that support both law enforcement and public access. The motion also directs the Chief Executive Office to collaborate with OVP, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, and County Counsel to identify funding options for the additional recommendations laid out in the report that would increase the reach of the public awareness campaign and provide dedicated individuals to support members of the public who are seeking a GVRO. The process to petition for a GVRO can be very challenging and the decision to pursue one is not to be taken lightly, so having dedicated personnel housed in OVP to help navigate that system would be very beneficial.

Gun violence is an epidemic that has taken too many lives and continues to plague too many communities. The Board has taken multiple steps to combat this epidemic from all angles, including strengthening local gun regulations, advocating for stronger federal and state regulations, investing in community-based violence prevention programs, holding gun buy-back events, and creating various risk assessment and co-response programs. Another way that the Board can fight gun violence is to spread awareness and improve access to Gun Violence Restraining Orders under California's "red flag" law. This is a vastly underutilized tool that can help save lives, so it is time for Los Angeles County to ensure that its residents are aware of this tool and have access to it when needed.

**WE, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors direct the Department of Public Health - Office of Violence Prevention (OVP) to do the following:

1. Implement an initial public awareness campaign that is culturally and linguistically relevant about Gun Violence Restraining Orders (GVROs). The campaign should include:

- a. Creating a dedicated webpage on the OVP website to share information, answer questions, and provide resources related to GVROs, including:
    - i. Elements of the California GVRO law;
    - ii. Who is eligible to request a GVRO under the law;
    - iii. How to request a GVRO and what the process looks like;
    - iv. Average time between submission of a request and implementation of an order;
    - v. Other kinds of restraining orders and gun relinquishment options;
    - vi. Warning signs of suicide or mass shooting risk; and
    - vii. Mental health action steps and resources
  - b. Creating flyers with information about GVROs; and
  - c. Working with community and county partners to design and implement targeted outreach strategies.
2. Collect and compile existing GVRO data from the California Department of Justice (DOJ), Los Angeles Superior Courts, and Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) and make the data publicly available on the OVP website in an accessible, understandable format;
  3. Support efforts to expand access to GVRO data by doing the following:
    - a. Seeking permission from the California DOJ to access de-identified data from the California Restraining and Protective Orders;

- b. Collaborating with LASD to ensure that LASD staff are being provided with regular information about the correct use of the statistical code used to identify GVROs; and
  - c. Requesting that LASD ask the California DOJ to add a code to the Armed and Prohibited Persons System to identify a person prohibited from owning a gun because of a GVRO.
4. Collaborate with County Counsel and LASD to coordinate and provide training (i.e., San Diego City Attorney training) and assistance related to GVROs to address the needs of both law enforcement and the public;
- a. This should include collaborating with LASD to designate a trained representative/liaison at each patrol station to serve as a station resource for deputies regarding GVROs; and
5. Report back in writing in 90 days with progress made on the above directives and any additional recommendations to improve awareness and access to GVROs.

**WE, FURTHER, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Office (CEO), in collaboration with the Department of Public Health - Office of Violence Prevention (OVP), Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD), and County Counsel, to report back during the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24 Supplemental Budget phase on potential funding options to support efforts to expand Gun Violence Restraining Order (GVRO) awareness and assistance as described in the proposal included in the July 7, 2023, report back "Responding to Los Angeles

County's Board Of Supervisors Motion: Increasing Access to Gun Violence Restraining orders."

The report back should specifically consider funding for the following:

1. A robust public awareness campaign on California's GVRO law that includes creating a variety of materials on different platforms, implementing a marketing strategy, and engaging with various diverse partners;
2. Two System Navigator positions within OVP, subject to allocation by CEO Classification and Compensation, to provide support to members of the public requesting GVROs, work with county and community partners to develop and provide trainings on GVROs, and develop outreach plans to meet specific and most impacted populations; and
3. A Senior Deputy County Counsel position, subject to allocation by CEO Classification and Compensation dedicated to support GVRO filings by LASD and serve as counsel in GVRO hearings/proceedings.

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