



Eileen M. Donoghue
City Manager

Kara Keefe Mullin
Assistant City Manager

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Leahy and Members of the City Council

FROM: Eileen Donoghue, City Manager *EMD*

DATE: May 11, 2021

SUBJECT: Motion Response – Gunfire Directed at Dwellings Legislation
C. Chau – 4/27/21 - Req. City Mgr. Notify The Lowell Delegation Regarding The Support Of The City Council For SD. 1323 And HD. 1986, Raising The Penalty For Shooting Into A Dwelling From A Misdemeanor To A Felony, And Urging Their Success In Becoming Law.

At the request of the City Council, the attached letter has been transmitted to all members of Lowell's state delegation conveying the City's support of **H.1803/S.1064** (SD. 1323/HD. 1986), *An act prohibiting gunfire directed at dwelling houses.*

As expressed in the letter, I have committed to providing a letter of support to the Joint Committee on the Judiciary once notified that a hearing has been scheduled for the legislation. I will also make the Council aware of the legislation's hearing date in the event that any members wish to provide additional testimony in its support.

I will keep the Council apprised of any developments related to this legislation that I am made aware of by the delegation.



Eileen M. Donoghue
City Manager

Kara Keefe Mullin
Assistant City Manager

April 28, 2021

Members of the Lowell State Delegation
Massachusetts State House
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Senator Kennedy and Representatives Golden, Mom and Howard:

As you are aware, public safety is among the most critical components of the wellbeing of any community. The City of Lowell is grateful for your continued support of legislation and funding opportunities aimed at enhancing public safety in Lowell and across the Commonwealth. In particular, we appreciate the delegation's continued efforts to enact legislation to create a criminal penalty for discharging firearms with the intent of striking a dwelling unit through H.1803/S.1064, An act prohibiting gunfire directed at dwelling houses. At the request of the Lowell City Council, I am writing to convey the City's support for this legislation and to offer our assistance in advocating for its passage.

Instances where shots are fired and strike homes have a detrimental effect on the sense of security within our community. These incidents not only jeopardize the safety of individuals within struck residences, but also stir anxiety and apprehension within the surrounding neighborhood. While this issue is not confined to Lowell, it has been experienced with unfortunate frequency in the City. In 2020, there were 12 reported incidents of shots striking residences or other buildings. An appropriate penalty for such acts would offer an important tool in reducing the frequency of these occurrences.

Once again, I appreciate the continued leadership of the delegation on this issue. I would respectfully request that you notify my office when H.1803/S.1064 is scheduled for a hearing so that I can submit a letter of testimony on behalf of the City to the Joint Committee on the Judiciary. Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is anything else that I can do to be of assistance in supporting the passage of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Eileen M. Donoghue
City Manager