



CITY HALL  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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## **REYES, WEISS BOLSTER SCHOOL SAFETY ZONES – Councilmembers call for mandatory jail time for firearm possession near schools**

Councilmembers Ed P. Reyes and Jack Weiss announced a motion today that establishes mandatory jail sentences for firearm possession near schools. The announcement was made today at Aragon Avenue Elementary School (1118 Aragon Ave.), the site of the deadly Feb. 21 shootout that killed a man holding his 2-year-old granddaughter's hand.

“The one place in this city where children, parents and administrators should feel safe is in their school,” said Councilmember Reyes, whose district includes Aragon elementary school. “The recent shootings, including the one here at Aragon Elementary, violated that sense of sanctuary and we must do everything we can to restore it!”

Specifically, the public safety motion calls for the following:

- 1) A mandatory minimum sentence of 90 days in County Jail for possessing a firearm in a school zone (within 1,000 feet of a school).
- 2) Includes preschools and daycare centers in the definition of school zones.

Currently, California Penal Code Section 626.9 makes it a crime to possess a firearm in a school zone (within 1,000 feet of a public or private school, grades K-12). A jail sentence is dependent on the discretion of the judge and is not mandatory for this crime, which means an offender can get off with minimum probation and fine.

“In the wake of weeks of extreme gun violence, the City must get tougher on gangs and guns,” said Councilmember Weiss. “No one should have a gun near a school. This law cracks down on people with guns in safe school zones before their guns are used for senseless killing and mayhem in neighborhoods.”

“Our schools need to be safe havens,” said Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca. “Restricting the illegal use of guns on or near a school campus will result in safer schools.”

Councilmembers Reyes and Weiss plan to introduce the motion during the City Council meeting tomorrow.

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