



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

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CONTACT:

Mayor's Press Office

312.744.3334

press@cityofchicago.org

CITY COUNCIL PASSES AMENDMENTS TO STRENGTHEN CITY'S FIREARM ORDINANCE AND INCREASE PENALTIES FOR OFFENDERS

Today, City Council has approved a series of amendments introduced by Mayor Emanuel to the City's Municipal Code that expands reporting requirements for firearms, increases penalties for failure to report as required, and increases penalties for other types of firearms-related violations. Alderman James Balcer and Alderman Willie Cochran serve as co-sponsors to the series of amendments introduced today.

"The Chicago Police Department is seizing more illegal guns than any other city in the nation, and this ordinance will help eliminate the number of illegal guns in our communities and increase the penalties for those who ignore the law and place others in danger," said Mayor Emanuel. "Chicago will continue to lead the way in enacting the toughest gun control measures possible while still respecting the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens."

The proposed amendments would:

- Expand the requirement for reporting to anyone who owns or possesses a firearm in the City, and occur within 48 hours of the loss, theft, destruction, sale or transfer. Currently, only persons holding a Chicago Firearms Permit are required to report the loss, theft, destruction, sale or transfer of a firearm.
- Substantially increase the jail time requirement for failing to report a lost, stolen, destroyed, sold or transferred firearm. Currently the penalty is a fine of \$1,000 to \$5,000 or incarceration for less than 20 days or more than 90 days, or both; this would change to a minimum of 90 days, with a maximum of 180 days.
- Increase the length of mandatory incarceration for other types of firearms-related violations from 20-90 days to 90-180 days, including for possession of unregistrable firearms, including assault weapons.
- Increase penalties associated with the sale or possession of high capacity magazines and metal piercing bullets from the current range of a fine of \$1,000 to \$5,000 or incarceration for 20-90 days, or both, to mandatory jail time of 90 - 180 days.

- Increase the mandatory penalty for possession of a firearm without a Chicago Firearm Permit from 20-90 days to 90-180 days.

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