

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Township of West Orange (the "Township") must from time to time purchase firearms and ammunition for the Township Police Department; and

WHEREAS, firearms and ammunition are tools used by the Police Department to protect public safety; and

WHEREAS, it is in the interests of the people of the Township to ensure that the Township's purchases of firearms and ammunition contribute to public safety to the fullest possible extent; and

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of the people of the Township to periodically review and update the specifications and standards used in product purchasing in order to evaluate changes in the marketplace and re-evaluate the needs of the Township; and

WHEREAS, in order to conduct this review thoroughly, and with the greatest possible efficiency and least possible expenditure of the Township's resources, the Township will seek to work in conjunction with other municipal, state and federal government entities that are conducting similar inquiries; and

WHEREAS, the Township Police Department and/or the Chief of Police are best-suited to lead an investigation into firearms procurement practices; and

WHEREAS, the first phase of this review, to be completed by April 14, 2014, will be to research the marketplace to gather extensive information from and about manufacturers and vendors of firearms and ammunition in order to determine the following:

- (a) Technical capabilities to enhance gun safety, such as owner-recognition firing mechanisms (a.k.a. "smart gun" capabilities);
- (b) Technical capabilities to enhance law enforcement ballistics investigations, such as bullet microstamping technologies;
- (c) Distribution practices and cooperation with law enforcement: Which firearms providers are able to establish well-managed distribution systems for their firearms, and to cooperate to the

fullest extent possible with law enforcement in its efforts to keep weapons out of the hands of criminals and mentally ill individuals; which providers are able to establish the most effective buyback programs and other incentives to minimize the extent to which their products are sold second-hand on the "private" market; what other effective practices are being carried out or considered by firearms providers to assist law enforcement in limiting illegal gun trafficking;

- (d) Commitment to minimizing the "arms race" between law enforcement and civilians: which firearms and ammunition providers voluntarily refrain from sales of high-capacity magazines and military-grade firearms in the U.S. consumer marketplace;
- (e) Overall commitment to firearm safety in the U.S. marketplace: which firearms providers carry out effective programs to ensure that all of their firearms sold in the United States are equipped with trigger locks and instructions on safe firearm storage; what other effective safety practices are being carried out or considered by firearms providers in the U.S. marketplace; and

WHEREAS, the second phase of this review, to be completed by July 14, 2014, will be to evaluate the findings of the market investigation and to develop new standards and specifications to be used by the Township in future purchases of firearms and ammunition.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of West Orange, that a review and investigation of the Township's policies, practices, specifications and standards for purchasing firearms and ammunition, as outlined herein, shall be and hereby is authorized, and the Chief of Police and/or his designee(s) shall conduct the review.

Karen J. Carnevale
Municipal Clerk

Susan McCartney
Council President

Adopted: January 14, 2014