

RESOLUTION NO.      -2013

BY:

RESOLUTION URGING THE U.S. CONGRESS TO REINSTATE AND ENHANCE THE FEDERAL ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YONKERS, IN THE COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER, NEW YORK, HEREBY ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS, on December 14, 2012, a mass shooting took place in Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, the people of the City of Yonkers mourn the 26 innocent lives, including those of 20 children, that have been lost at Sandy Hook Elementary School in this unimaginable tragedy; and

WHEREAS, one of the firearms used in this incident was an AR-15 semiautomatic assault type of weapon, the civilian version of the U.S. military's M-16 and M-4, with the ability to rapidly fire multiple high-velocity rounds; and

WHEREAS, the firepower of these types of semiautomatic assault weapons makes them especially desirable to violent criminals and particularly lethal in their hands; and

WHEREAS, according to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, assault weapons are preferred by criminals over law abiding citizens eight to one such that access to them shifts the balance of power to the lawless; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement has been united in support of banning assault weapons as they are of particular danger and concern to law enforcement personnel; and

WHEREAS, limiting civilian access to such weapons lessens the need for law enforcement to carry assault weapons themselves in order to match the firepower capability that criminals with assault weapons would have; and

WHEREAS, semiautomatic assault weapons were banned for a period of ten (10) years beginning in 1994 under the Federal Assault Weapons Act; and

WHEREAS, various studies indicated that the Federal Assault Weapons Act significantly reduced the incidence of assault weapons in the use of crime; and

WHEREAS, the assault weapons ban expired in 2004 and has not been renewed; and

WHEREAS, this City Council finds it in the best interest of the public safety of this community to reinstate and enhance the ban on assault weapons; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this City Council:

Section 1. Urges the United States Congress to reinstate and strengthen the federal ban on assault weapons; and

Section 2. Directs the City Clerk to send a certified copy of this resolution to the City's Congressional Delegation in Washington, D.C.