

The Town of Westfield

~ R E S O L U T I O N ~

Committee of the Whole

February 5, 2013

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control reports that there are approximately 30,000 firearm-related deaths every year in the United States, over 60% of which are attributable to suicides, 35% attributable to homicides, and the remainder characterized as unintentional; and

WHEREAS, these numbers are not merely statistics; rather, each of these numbers represents a precious human life; and

WHEREAS, the unspeakable events that occurred in Newtown on December 14, 2012 and the daily shootings that occur on our streets every day, particularly in our inner cities, has ignited a meaningful and comprehensive nationwide discussion over gun violence; and

WHEREAS, while it is understood that not everyone can be in agreement on precisely which course of action to follow, most everyone is in agreement that gun violence is a problem in our country; therefore, comprehensive action must be taken by our legislators and effective preventative measures must be sought; and

WHEREAS, advocacy groups, from the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence to the Americans for Responsible Solutions, are calling on citizens to contact their congressmen and women to make their views known; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Westfield have a valuable voice to contribute to the discussion of gun violence and should be heard; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Westfield endorses NJ SAFE, the Task Force Governor Christie has set up “to take a full and comprehensive look at the intersection of gun control, addiction, mental health and school safety”, and citizens are encouraged to voice their positions directly with the Task Force;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council of the Town of Westfield considers all human beings to be precious and full of promise and, therefore, gun violence and its root causes must be addressed comprehensively by our state and federal legislators; that our citizens have varied and valuable viewpoints to contribute to the state and national discussion; that the Town of Westfield urges passage of federal and state legislation to prevent acts of gun violence in our society; and that our citizens are urged to either attend the hearings or provide written submissions to the NJ SAFE Task Force as well as voice their opinions to their state and federal legislators.