

# MEMORANDUM

To: Melissa Manriquez, Clerk of the Board  
Pima County Board of Supervisors

Date: November 13, 2023

Re: Addendum Item for Nov. 21, 2023 Meeting

From: Rex Scott  
District 1 Supervisor  
Pima County Board of Supervisors

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Please place attached resolution in support of 2022R-17 on the November 21, 2023 BOS Meeting Addendum.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023 - \_\_\_\_\_

A RESOLUTION OF THE PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MAKING A PUBLIC COMMENT TO THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSED ATF RULE 2022-R17, WHICH WILL REQUIRE BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR ALL PRIVATE FIREARM SALES

WHEREAS, firearm-related violence represents a growing public health and safety threat to all Pima County inhabitants. In 2022, 226 persons were killed with firearms. So far in 2023, 146 persons have perished (1); and

WHEREAS, firearm-related violence represents a staggering human and economic cost to Pima County. In 2022, there were 533 hospital and emergency visits for firearm-related injuries (1); and

WHEREAS, billed hospitalization costs for those injuries totaled \$33,107,484 (1); and

WHEREAS, in 2010, the Centers for Disease Control estimated that medical and work loss costs for firearm-related violence in Arizona averaged over \$1,000,000 per victim (1). Other significant firearm-related violence costs not accounted for include: emergency response, law enforcement, criminal justice, incarceration and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, private (non Federal Firearms License) sellers at gun shows, on-line and at other public and private locations can and do sell firearms to buyers without determining if that person is a "prohibited possessor" and

WHEREAS, "prohibited possessors"\* accounted for 21% (205 out of 958) of all persons charged with firearm-related violent crimes in Pima County in 2020 (2); and

WHEREAS, background checks are the only way to identify and prevent "prohibited possessors" from purchasing firearms; and

WHEREAS, the proposed federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives (ATF&E) has proposed Rule 2022R-17 which will require background checks for all private firearms sales; and

WHEREAS, Pima County through both the Board of Supervisors and its Health Department, has broad authority to take actions necessary to protect the public health and safety of all Pima County's inhabitants, see A.R.S. 11-251 (17); A.R.S. Title 36, Chapter 1, Article 4; Marsoner v. Pima County, 166 Ariz. 486, including authority to adopt and enforce "regulations necessary for the public health and safety of the inhabitants." (3)

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Pima County Board of Supervisors, in order to protect the health and safety of Pima County inhabitants, supports the proposed ATF&E Rule 2022R-17 and direct County staff to formally communicate Pima County's support of Rule 2022R-17 prior to the end of the public comment period on December 7, 2023.

Passed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

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Adelita S. Grijalva, Chair  
Pima County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk, Board of Supervisors

  
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Deputy County Attorney

\* A "prohibited possessor" is a person who is legally restricted from owning firearms.

Sources:

- (1) Pima County Health Department
- (2) Pima County Attorney's Office
- (3) taken from Pima County Board of Supervisors Resolution 2020-96