

BOROUGH OF RED BANK
COUNTY OF MONMOUTH
RESOLUTION NO. 18-90

**A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE COMMUNITY OF PARKLAND
FLORIDA, REAFFIRMING THE STRICT ASSAULT WEAPONS LAWS IN THE
STATE OF NEW JERSEY AND ADVOCATING FOR STRICTER NATIONAL LEVEL
COMMON-SENSE GUN SAFETY LEGISLATION AND IMPROVED
REPORTING AND MANAGEMENT OF PERSONS OF RISK.**

Councilman Zipprich offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, the Borough of Red Bank is saddened by the unthinkable and horrific acts committed at Stoneman Douglas High School on February 14, 2018 impacting the children and broader community forevermore; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Red Bank Mayor and the Borough Council as a unified bipartisan body calls for an end to the senseless violence caused by deranged individuals with access to assault weapons in communities around our country through improved legislation at all levels of government; and

WHEREAS, Children throughout the nation have been negatively affected directly and indirectly by violent crimes involving firearms; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Colleen Kraft, President of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), formally issued a statement on February 15, 2018 on behalf of the AAP that encapsulates our collective sentiment:

“Children are dying from gun violence and Congress is failing to act. Every one of our 100 U.S. senators, and all 435 U.S. representatives bear a responsibility to take meaningful action to protect our children, our families, and our communities. Our elected leaders cannot continue to fail at this most essential task.

We can start by working to advance meaningful legislation that keeps children safe. The American Academy of Pediatrics advocates for stronger state and federal gun laws that protect children, including a ban on assault weapons like the one used in yesterday’s school shooting. We also call for stronger background checks, solutions addressing firearm trafficking, and encouraging safe firearm storage. We will also continue to work to ensure that children and their families have access to appropriate mental health services, particularly to address the effects of exposure to violence.”; and

WHEREAS, the tragedies of Parkland, Florida, of Newtown, Connecticut, of Columbine High School in Colorado, emphasize the extreme need to immediately address access to firearms and the delivery of mental health services; and

WHEREAS, our public reporting systems that are used to identify clear threats, individuals who are in need of mental health services and proactive law enforcement intervention had unacceptable functional gaps. Thus, we need bold actions to improve our reporting of school violence, individuals at risk and public threats. It is unacceptable that these systems which received multiple tips were not up to the task of providing key information to public safety officials who then should have acted with all due haste to address the public risk. The true sadness of this situation was that in the months prior to this incident there appears to have been multiple flags which were raised that could and should have resulted in swift action by public officials and law enforcement that could have prevented this incident and/or saved lives; and

WHEREAS, The Red Bank Mayor and Council respects the rights of the vast majority of gun owners who are respectful of the tremendous power of these weapons and who are constantly vigilant in the management and use of firearms to promote public safety. We

support the responsible use of firearms in recreation and sports and are confident that the firearms owners and industry can and will work in partnership with our communities to assure that all firearms owners are properly trained and licensed. We also believe that reasonable compromise is the key to both protecting the rights promised in the Constitution of the United States of America as well as assuring that firearms are not in the hands of individuals who lack the control and mental stability to assure public safety. Thus, some aspects of gun regulation must be adjusted to assure that the events at Parkland are not repeated. Our community of Red Bank demands that the strict assault weapons laws of our State be held as the model for the rest of the nation to ensure these types of atrocities never occur in our community or any community going forward; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Red Bank in the County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey, urges our national leadership including all members of Congress regardless of party affiliation to identify and implement meaningful action to address access to and ownership of military-style assault weapons and ammunition, accurate and complete reporting of the activities of at-risk individuals, the delivery of mental health services, and financial support to ensure a safe and secure school climate.

Seconded by Councilwoman Horgan and adopted on roll call by the following vote:

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Councilman Taylor	(X)	()	()	()
Councilman Whelan	(X)	()	()	()
Councilman Yngstrom	(X)	()	()	()
Councilman Ballard	(X)	()	()	()
Councilman Zipprich	(X)	()	()	()
Councilwoman Horgan	(X)	()	()	()

Dated: March 28, 2018

I hereby certify the above to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Council of the Borough of Red Bank, in the County of Monmouth, at a meeting held on March 28, 2018.

Pamela Borghi

Pamela Borghi, Municipal Clerk