

Resolution on behalf of the Bethlehem Town Board in support of the New York Secure Ammunition and Firearms Enforcement Act of 2013, commonly known as the NY SAFE Act.

WHEREAS, the Bethlehem Town Board wishes to express support for the efforts of President Barack Obama, New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo, the New York State Legislature, and other governmental leaders to understand the causes of the epidemic of gun violence in our country, and to take effective actions to reduce or deter gun violence; and

WHEREAS, the New York Secure Ammunition and Firearms Enforcement Act of 2013, commonly known as the NY SAFE Act, includes several common sense provisions designed to curb gun violence in the State of New York, including:

- Banning possession of assault weapons and high-capacity magazines;
- Measures designed to keep guns out of the hands of convicted felons and the dangerously mentally ill;
- Requiring background checks for all gun and ammunition sales;
- Toughening criminal penalties for those who use illegal guns;
- Increasing the penalty for shooting first responders to life in prison without parole (the so-called “Webster Provision”);
- Protecting the privacy of gun owners; and
- Establishing a new database and information sharing system that will further modernize public safety and policing; and

WHEREAS, the Bethlehem Town Board believes the NY SAFE Act will protect our citizens and save lives; and

WHEREAS, the Bethlehem Town Board wishes to express support for the members of the New York State Legislature, including our representatives Senator Neil Breslin and Assemblywoman Patricia Fahy, who voted to enact the NY SAFE Act on January 15, 2013, and for Governor Cuomo, who signed the NY SAFE Act into law on that same date; and

WHEREAS, the NY SAFE Act should not and will not prevent the safe and responsible ownership and use of firearms by the citizens of the Town of Bethlehem, the State of New York, and the United States of America, for sport, recreation, and self-defense purposes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bethlehem Town Board does hereby: