

Wilmington, Delaware  
June 16, 2022

#

**WHEREAS**, Senate Substitute No. 1 for Senate Bill No. 3 (SS No. 1 for SB No. 3) would

**Sponsor:**

amend Title 11 of the Delaware Code sets forth an application process to obtain a handgun qualified purchaser card that must be presented by individuals seeking to purchase or transfer ownership of a firearm; and

**Council  
Member  
Johnson**

**WHEREAS**, in 2020, firearm-related injuries were among the 5 leading causes of death for Americans under the age of 44 years old. Every day, more than 100 Americans are killed by gun violence, and more than 230 are injured. In an average year, more than 40,000 die, and another 84,000 are wounded by guns nationally. Nearly eight in 10 murders and more than half of deaths by suicide in the United States involve a firearm. According to the National Safety Council, there was a 13.9 percent increase in all gun-related deaths and a 10 percent rise in accidental gun deaths in 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, Delaware has the 25th highest rate of gun-related fatalities in the U.S. An average of 111 Delawareans are killed by firearms each year. Firearm deaths and injuries cost the State of Delaware an estimated \$714 million annually; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, nearly one in four of Wilmington's violent crimes involved a handgun. There were 28 shootings with 32 victims in Wilmington between January 1 and May 15, 2022. In the past year, there were a total of 118 shootings with 149 victims and 39 homicides; and

**WHEREAS**, SS No. 1 for SB No. 3 sets forth an application process for obtaining a handgun qualified purchaser card that preserves the Second Amendment Rights of responsible, lawful gun owners; ensures that cardholders are adequately trained to safely operate firearms;

closes loopholes in access to guns by mandating that all legal gun sales or transfers verify that an individual possesses a handgun qualified purchaser card; prohibits access to weapons for individuals convicted of certain criminal offenses, and assists law enforcement officers' capacity to conduct criminal investigations when firearms are misused.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON** that the Wilmington City Council is strongly in favor of SS No. 1 for SB No. 3, which would require that gun purchasers possess a handgun qualified purchaser card to buy or obtain a firearm through a transfer of ownership.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Council urges the members of the Delaware General Assembly to support SS No. 1 for SB No. 3 to better regulate the sale of firearms and promote responsible gun ownership.

Passed by City Council,

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

**SYNOPSIS:** This Resolution urges the members of the Delaware General Assembly to support SS No. 1 for SB No. 3 to better regulate the sale and transfer of firearms and promote responsible gun ownership.