



EDWIN M. LEE
MAYOR

**POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO**

THOMAS J. CAHILL HALL OF JUSTICE
850 BRYANT STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94103-4603



GREGORY P. SUHR
CHIEF OF POLICE

January 24, 2013

Mr. Derek Evans, Assistant Committee Clerk
Public Safety Committee
Board of Supervisors
City Hall, Room 244
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco , CA 94102-4694

Dear Mr. Evans:

RE: File No. 130040 – Ordinance Prohibiting Possession or Sale of Certain Ammunition

The intent of this letter is to express the full support of the San Francisco Police Department for Ordinance 130040, which seeks to prohibit the possession and sale of certain ammunition, including Black Talon, intended exclusively for law enforcement and military purposes.

Winchester Ammunition began production of the hollow-point ammunition known as Black Talon in 1991, which was intended for use by law enforcement only. The ammunition was manufactured for use in a variety of different caliber weapons including 9 mm, 10 mm, .40 caliber, and .357 and .44 magnum. On July 1, 1993, Gian Luigi Ferri used a TEC-9 loaded with a mix of standard and Black Talon ammunition to carry out a deadly assault at 101 California Street in San Francisco, leaving eight people dead and six others wounded.

Following this incident, California implemented some of the toughest gun laws in the United States. In 1994, led by Senator Dianne Feinstein, the Federal government passed the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act which, in addition to banning certain types of semi-automatic weapons, banned large-capacity magazines. This ban expired on September 13, 2004.

However, at no time has the manufacture, sale, or possession of hollow-point ammunition intended for use for law enforcement or military purposes been regulated and/or banned. Basically there is no law that prohibits the sale of hollow-point ammunition specifically designed and marked for use by law enforcement to the general public. Although Winchester no longer makes the Black Talon, a similar ammunition that expands on impact is manufactured for sale. And it is a fact that the law enforcement-specific ammunition has been and continues to be used in the commission of criminal acts, including officer involved shootings, due to its capability of piercing body armor worn by sworn peace officers.

It is the opinion of the San Francisco Police Department that passing this Ordinance will provide officers on the street the means to seize this extremely dangerous type of ammunition thereby reducing the possibility for its use by criminals.

If I can be of further assistance, please contact my office.

Sincerely,


GREGORY P. SUHR
Chief of Police

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