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## San Francisco May Ban Military-Grade Ammo, Track Big Purchases

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December 20, 2012 7:48 PM



Defender 120-grain .308 Winchester bullets. (Ethan Miller/Getty Images)

SAN FRANCISCO (CBS SF) — Two pieces of legislation announced Thursday by San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee could make buying ammunition in the city more difficult.

Lee was joined by police Chief Greg Suhr and Supervisor Malia Cohen Thursday to announce the proposals, the first of which would make military-grade ammunition illegal to possess in San Francisco.

The second proposal would require businesses to automatically notify police when someone buys 500 rounds of ammunition or more in one transaction.

**Filed Under**  
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Ammo, Ammunition, Bullets, Ed Lee, Greg Suhr, Gun Control, Guns, Hollow Point Bullets, Malia Cohen, Mayor Ed Lee, San Francisco, San Francisco Board of Supervisors, San Francisco Police Department

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Lee said military-grade ammunition such as hollow-point bullets “has no reason to be in our homes and on our streets.”

Cohen, who said she expects to introduce the proposals at the board’s Jan. 15 meeting, said it “is too easy to obtain and possess military-grade ammunition” that is “designed to expand and shred internal organs” of shooting victims.

00:00

The proposals come in the wake of last week’s shooting spree that killed more than two-dozen people at an elementary school in

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Connecticut and “heightened everyone’s awareness” about the problems of gun violence, Lee said.

There have been [67 homicides in San Francisco this year](#) compared to 50 at the same point in 2011, but gun violence in the city is down about 4 percent from last year, according to Suhr, who said he hoped the mayor’s proposals would further reduce the violence.

The chief acknowledged that, as currently proposed, the legislation would allow someone to make multiple purchases that total more than 500 rounds as long as one transaction did not reach that number.

“That’s a problem,” he said. “But there has to be a threshold and we’re setting it at 500.”

Lee earlier this week joined more than 750 mayors from across the country in sending a letter to President Barack Obama and Congress calling for comprehensive gun control reform.

More information about the Mayors Against Illegal Guns coalition can be found at [www.mayorsagainstillegals.com](http://www.mayorsagainstillegals.com).

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**watchdog** · 3 months ago

False, hollow point bullets expand to limit the amount of over penetration when the bullet strikes the bad guy. It's actually more responsible to shoot hollow points vs. not So innocents don't get hit with bullets after passing through the bad guy who is robbing/raping/assaulting the innocents. Supervisor Cohen is an idiot.

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**Emperor Norton** · 3 months ago

So, perhaps someone could explain how they're going to "track" something they don't allow you to have delivered to your home if you live in San Francisco in the first place? Oh wait, this is just another "what politicians do during the day to provide the illusion they're doing something".

8   · Reply · Share ›

**Nick** · 3 months ago

Wait so... first in San Francisco I need to have my bedside pistol unloaded in a locked container, then when an armed criminal enters my home I have to ask him to wait, whilst I open the container and load the mag, with ball point ammunition that is more likely to penetrate drywall and potentially hurt my neighbors, (remember most houses in SF are connected) not to mention do less damage to the criminal..Wow you liberals will stop at nothing until nobody but the gov and criminals have guns. PS COME AND TAKE THEM

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**Chris** · 3 months ago

Hollow points are not military grade ammunition. The police chief, of all people, should know this.

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**Watching** · 3 months ago

Military grade ammo is FMJ (full metal jacket) as it bis designed to go through, not expand and tear the target up

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**OrangeTide** · 3 months ago

I don't think the "military" is even supposed to use hollowpoint ammo on the battlefield. It's mainly for hunters and home defense where over-penetration is undesirable, and for hunting it has the advantage of being a quicker and hopefully more humane end for the animal. I'm not sure how this law helps when anyone in SF can go to any gun show of the month and buy a case of miliary surplus ammo at a huge discount.

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**Vincent Martin** · 3 months ago

your mayor is an idiot. Hollow points are used in home defense so that they dont penetrate through walls to cause collateral damage.

5   Reply · Share ›

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**toter** · 3 months ago

Nobody in their right mind buys ammo from the city. You go to the burbs like Castro Valley or Sin Leandro. HELLOOOO

3   Reply · Share ›

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**Bob Robillard** · 3 months ago

STOP calling the Bushmaster rifle, used at Newtown, an Assault weapon. It is a semi-automatic rifle. It is NOT an Assault weapon. Many of your commentators are inaccurate in referring to it as an Assault weapon.

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**rew** · 3 months ago

TRY AGAIN SAN FRANCISCO!!!!!!

1899 Hague Declaration Concerning Expanding

Bullets prohibits "the use of bullets which expand or flatten easily in the human body, such as bullets with a hard envelope which does not entirely cover the core or is pierced

with incisions." The United States never signed this treaty, but adheres to the prohibitions of the Hague Expanding Bullets Declaration.

However, the prohibition on expanding bullets, which includes hollow point bullets, only applies to the armed forces of nations engaged in international armed conflict and does not

apply to domestic law enforcement agencies.



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