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## Memorializing Resolution Calling for the Repeal of the Second Amendment

We, the members of the Common Council and the Mayor of Kingston, New York, demand action to drastically reduce firearm violence in the United States by repealing the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Whereas, United States Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens called in 2018 for the repeal of the Second Amendment because the provision of a "well-regulated militia" is a "relic of the 18<sup>th</sup> century";<sup>1</sup> and

Whereas, Warren Burger, the Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court from 1969-1986, castigated the NRA's argument for an individual right to own firearms as "one of the greatest pieces of fraud, I repeat the word fraud, on the American public by special interest groups that I have ever seen in my lifetime"<sup>2</sup>;

Whereas, United States Supreme Court in 1939 unanimously decided in *United States v. Miller* (1939) that Congress had the power to prohibit possession of sawed-off shotguns because they had no reasonable role in the preservation or efficiency of a "well regulated militia";

Whereas, the Federal Government has in the past established limits and taxes on the possession, manufacture, and distribution of various types of firearms such as the National Firearms Act of 1934 and Violent Crime Control and Enforcement Act of 1994;

Whereas, the current Supreme Court of the United States shows virtually no interest in enabling common-sense regulation of the use, manufacture, and distribution of firearms;

Whereas, other nations that have taken steps to regulate the use, manufacture, and distribution of firearms have significantly reduced and even eliminated mass shootings;

Whereas, the framers of the United States Constitution in 1787 could not possibly have envisioned the destructive power of contemporary firearms;

Whereas, the annual number of deaths by the use of firearms is a significant public-health hazard with the number of firearm-related deaths reaching 45,222 in 2020;

Whereas, firearm deaths became *the leading cause of death* among children and adolescents aged 1-19 years of age in 2020;<sup>3</sup>

Whereas, death by mass shooters causes untold grief, distress, and diminished well-being among family relations, community members, and citizens throughout the nation;

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<sup>1</sup> John Paul Stevens, "Repeal the Second Amendment," *New York Times*, 27 March 2018, <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/27/opinion/john-paul-stevens-repeal-second-amendment.html>

<sup>2</sup> Warren Burger, Interview, *PBS News Hour*, 16 December 1991, [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eya\\_k4P-iEo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eya_k4P-iEo).

<sup>3</sup> Jason E. Goldstick et al., "Current Causes of Death in Children and Adolescents in the United States," *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 19 May 2022, <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMc2201761>

Whereas, deaths through the use of firearms increased by 67 percent from 2012 to 2020 as the rate of firearms sold increased;

Whereas, the rate of successful suicides increases vastly when firearms are used;

Whereas, wanton use of firearms threatens the lives and health of police officers;

Whereas, the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the Fraternal Order of Police have recognized the need for reducing the number of firearms on US streets and have called for banning assault-style firearms;

Whereas, in the past dozen years mass shooters (those murdering four or more persons) have attacked Americans 274 times, shooting and killing 1,536 people, and shooting and wounding 983 others;<sup>4</sup>

Whereas, children obtained access to firearms and unintentionally killed 163 people and wounding 248 in 2020;<sup>5</sup>

Whereas, mass shootings have occurred across the entire United States since 2000, for example:<sup>6</sup>

Robb Elementary School	Uvalde, Texas	5/24/2022
Buffalo supermarket	Buffalo, New York	5/14/2022
Sacramento County church	Sacramento, California	2/28/2022
Oxford High School	Oxford, Michigan	11/30/2021
San Jose VTA	San Jose, California	5/26/2021
FedEx warehouse	Indianapolis, Indiana	4/15/2021
Orange office complex	Orange, California	3/31/2021
Boulder supermarket	Boulder, Colorado	3/22/2021
Atlanta massage parlor s	Atlanta, Georgia	3/16/2021
Springfield convenience store	Springfield, Missouri	3/16/2020
Molson Coors	Milwaukee, Wisconsin	2/26/2020
Jersey City kosher market	Jersey City, New Jersey	12/10/2019
Pensacola Naval base	Pensacola, Florida	12/6/2019
Odessa-Midland	Odessa, Texas	8/31/2019
Dayton entertainment district	Dayton, Ohio	8/4/2019
El Paso Walmart	El Paso, Texas	8/3/2019
Gilroy garlic festival	Gilroy, California	7/28/2019

<sup>4</sup> "Mass Shootings in America," Everytown for Gun Safety, <https://everytownresearch.org/maps/mass-shootings-in-america/>.

<sup>5</sup> The last year for which full-year data are available. See "#Not an Accident Index," Everytown for Gun Safety, <https://everytownresearch.org/maps/notanaccident/>.

<sup>6</sup> Mark Follman et al, "US Mass Shootings, 1982–2022," *Mother Jones Magazine*, <https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2012/12/mass-shootings-mother-jones-full-data/>

Virginia Beach municipal building	Virginia Beach, Virginia	5/31/2019
Harry Pratt Co. warehouse	Aurora, Illinois	2/15/2019
Pennsylvania hotel bar	State College, Pennsylvania	1/24/2019
SunTrust bank	Sebring, Florida	1/23/2019
Mercy Hospital	Chicago, Illinois	11/19/2018
Thousand Oaks nightclub	Thousand Oaks, California	11/7/2018
Tree of Life synagogue	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	10/27/2018
Rite Aid warehouse	Perryman, Maryland	9/20/2018
T&T Trucking	Bakersfield, California	9/12/2018
Fifth Third Center	Cincinnati, Ohio	9/6/2018
Capital Gazette	Annapolis, Maryland	6/28/2018
Santa Fe High School	Santa Fe, Texas	5/18/2018
Waffle House	Nashville, Tennessee	4/22/2018
Yountville veterans home	Yountville, California	3/9/2018
Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School	Parkland, Florida	2/14/2018
Pennsylvania carwash	Melcroft, Pennsylvania	1/28/2018
Rancho Tehama	Rancho Tehama, California	11/14/2017
Texas First Baptist Church	Sutherland Springs, Texas	11/5/2017
Walmart in suburban Denver	Thornton, Colorado	11/1/2017
Edgewood business park	Edgewood, Maryland	10/18/2017
Las Vegas Strip	Las Vegas, Nevada	10/1/2017
San Francisco UPS	San Francisco, California	6/14/2017
Pennsylvania supermarket	Tunkhannock, Pennsylvania	6/7/2017
Florida awning manufacturer	Orlando, Florida	6/5/2017
Rural Ohio nursing home	Kirkersville, Ohio	5/12/2017
Fresno downtown	Fresno, California	4/18/2017
Fort Lauderdale airport	Fort Lauderdale, Florida	1/6/2017
Cascade Mall	Burlington, Washington	9/23/2016
Baton Rouge police	Baton Rouge, Louisiana	7/17/2016
Dallas police	Dallas, Texas	7/7/2016
Orlando nightclub	Orlando, Florida	6/12/2016
Excel Industries	Hesston, Kansas	2/25/2016

Kalamazoo	Kalamazoo County, Michigan	2/20/2016
San Bernardino	San Bernardino, California	12/2/2015
Planned Parenthood clinic	Colorado Springs, Colorado	11/27/2015
Colorado Springs	Colorado Springs, Colorado	10/31/2015
Umpqua Community College	Roseburg, Oregon	10/1/2015
Chattanooga military recruitment center	Chattanooga, Tennessee	7/16/2015
Charleston Church	Charleston, South Carolina	6/17/2015
Trestle Trail bridge	Menasha, Wisconsin	6/11/2015
Marysville-Pilchuck High School	Marysville, Washington	10/24/2014
Isla Vista	Santa Barbara, California	5/23/2014
Fort Hood 2	Fort Hood, Texas	4/3/2014
Alturas tribal	Alturas, California	2/20/2014
Washington Navy Yard	Washington, D.C.	9/16/2013
Hialeah apartment	Hialeah, Florida	7/26/2013
Santa Monica	Santa Monica, California	6/7/2013
Pinewood Village Apartment	Federal Way, Washington	4/21/2013
Mohawk Valley s	Herkimer County, New York	3/13/2013
Sandy Hook Elementary	Newtown, Connecticut	12/14/2012
Accent Signage Systems	Minneapolis, Minnesota	9/27/2012
Sikh temple	Oak Creek, Wisconsin	8/5/2012
Aurora theater	Aurora, Colorado	7/20/2012
Seattle cafe	Seattle, Washington	5/20/2012
Oikos University	Oakland, California	4/2/2012
Su Jung Health Sauna	Norcross, Georgia	2/21/2012
Seal Beach	Seal Beach, California	10/12/2011
IHOP	Carson City, Nevada	9/6/2011
Tucson	Tucson, Arizona	1/8/2011
Hartford Beer Distributor	Manchester, Connecticut	8/3/2010
Coffee shop	Parkland, Washington	11/29/2009
Fort Hood	Fort Hood, Texas	11/5/2009
Binghamton s	Binghamton, New York	4/3/2009
Carthage nursing home	Carthage, North Carolina	3/29/2009

Atlantis Plastics	Henderson, Kentucky	6/25/2008
Northern Illinois University	DeKalb, Illinois	2/14/2008
Kirkwood City Council	Kirkwood, Missouri	2/7/2008
Westroads Mall	Omaha, Nebraska	12/5/2007
Crandon	Crandon, Wisconsin	10/7/2007
Virginia Tech	Blacksburg, Virginia	4/16/2007
Trolley Square	Salt Lake City, Utah	2/12/2007
Amish school	Lancaster County, Pennsylvania	10/2/2006
Capitol Hill	Seattle, Washington	3/25/2006
Goleta postal s	Goleta, California	1/30/2006
Red Lake	Red Lake, Minnesota	3/21/2005
Living Church of God	Brookfield, Wisconsin	3/12/2005
Damageplan show	Columbus, Ohio	12/8/2004
Lockheed Martin	Meridian, Mississippi	7/8/2003
Navistar	Melrose Park, Illinois	2/5/2001
Wakefield	Wakefield, Massachusetts	12/26/2000

Whereas, purported risk factors such as mental health, violent video games, racial disparities, and other potential antecedent are fairly consistent across many societies and thus cannot account for the high number of mass shootings unique to the US;<sup>7</sup>

Whereas, credible studies have established that the single reason the United States has so many mass shooting is attributable to a single factor: guns;<sup>8</sup>

Whereas, research has clearly demonstrated a clear development: tighter gun laws lead to fewer guns in private hands which in turn leads to fewer mass shootings;<sup>9</sup>

Whereas, expanded firearm regulations in countries such as Britain, Australia,<sup>10</sup>New Zealand, and Norway was widely supported by conservatives and liberals alike;

<sup>7</sup> Max Fisher and Josh Keller, "Why Does the U.S. Have So Many Mass Shootings? Research Is Clear: Guns," *New York Times*, 7 November 2017, <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/07/world/americas/mass-shootings-us-international.html>.

<sup>8</sup> Max Fisher and Josh Keller, "Why Does the U.S. Have So Many Mass Shootings? Research Is Clear: Guns," *New York Times*, 7 November 2017, <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/07/world/americas/mass-shootings-us-international.html>.

<sup>9</sup> Max Fisher, "Other Countries Had Mass Shootings. Then They Changed Their Gun Laws," 25 May 2022, <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/25/world/europe/gun-laws-australia-britain.html>.

<sup>10</sup> Max Fisher, "Other Countries Had Mass Shootings. Then They Changed Their Gun Laws," 25 May 2022, <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/25/world/europe/gun-laws-australia-britain.html>.

Whereas, the repeal of the Second Amendment would allow individual states to establish tighter firearm regulations in the absence of federal action;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED: the Common Council and Mayor of the City of Kingston, New York, call on our elected officials in the United States Senate to introduce legislation to repeal the Second Amendment from the Constitution of the United States.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: this resolution will be sent by the Mayor's office to New York Senators Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand.