

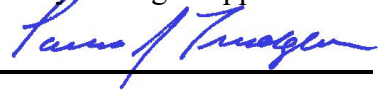
ROSEVILLE
REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Date: June 20, 2023

Item No.: 7.f

Department Approval

City Manager Approval



Item Description: Consider Adoption of National Gun Violence Awareness Month Proclamation

BACKGROUND

At the May 23, 2022 meeting, the City Council discussed the possibility of adopting an proclamation regarding National Gun Violence Awareness Day. After a lengthy discussion, the City Council decided to not adopt a proclamation but directed staff to work towards bringing back a proclamation for consideration next year that focused more on local gun violence prevention efforts. Minutes of that meeting are included as Attachment A.

Although National Gun Violence Awareness Day was already observed on June 2, Mayor Roe and Councilmember Strahan have been working with the City Manager on proclamation language to declare June 2023 as the National Gun Violence Awareness Month. The proposed proclamation is included as Attachment B. It is anticipated that same format for the proclamation can be used next year acknowledging both National Gun Violence Awareness Day and National Gun Violence Awareness Month.

POLICY OBJECTIVE

There are two Community Aspirations that are relevant to this topic. The first is the City aspires to be “Welcoming, inclusive, and respectful”. The second is that the City aspires to be a “Safe and Law Abiding” community.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

No budget impacts are expected with passing this proclamation.

RACIAL EQUITY IMPACT SUMMARY

Gun violence disproportionately affect Black, Indigenous, and Persons of Color (BIPOC) community members. As referenced in the proclamation, Black children and teens have the highest gun death rates among the nation’s population at nearly four times the rate of White people and Hispanic and Indigenous individuals dying by gun violence at twice the rate of White people. Programs designed to reduce gun violence will help everyone in the community and will specifically benefit BIPOC community members.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of the proclamation declaring June as National Gun Violence Awareness Month.

REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION

Motion to approve the proclamation declaring June as National Gun Violence Awareness Month.

Prepared by: Patrick Trudgeon, City Manager

Attachments: A: Minutes from May 23, 2022 City Council meeting
B: Proclamation

Mayor Roe thought it could if it is the will of the Council.

The Council concurred.

Mr. Trudgeon reviewed the changes the Council proposed and indicated he will bring this back to the Council on the June 6, 2022 Consent Agenda.

e. Consider Declaring National Gun Violence Awareness Day (Wear Orange Day)

Councilmember Strahan briefly highlighted this item as detailed in the Request for Council Action and related attachments dated May 23, 2022.

Councilmember Strahan explained she does not tolerate hate of any kind and any intimations that she is affiliated with a hate group is incorrect and she has separated herself from any group and disavow any such thing. She thought it should be obvious by most of her decisions and she actually spoke to Chief Scheider prior to the event to make sure it was intended with no defamatory comments regarding the police, at least that was her intent.

Mayor Roe recapped previous public comment made in reference to Councilmember Strahan.

Councilmember Strahan thought it was important to give an opportunity for the people who find this to be a very important issue to share why. She explained as she researched this she found information from a variety of areas. She wanted to be able to present to the community, again, just like the signs that say Roseville rejects racism for most of 2020, that the City rejects that racism and bias that often is inherent in this gun violence and any violence and maybe not specifically supporting wearing orange but acknowledging that there is National Gun Violence Awareness Day. This is a special day where the community honors and treasures the people who have lost their lives to gun violence and maybe that way the City can start to provide an opportunity for the community to move forward and see that the City holds that as a high enough value in what they do that the City would acknowledge it. When she looks back to the Imagine Roseville 2025, there is a lot about Roseville safety. She thought this item was not about action but about a first step.

Public Comment

Mayor Roe offered an opportunity for public comment.

Mr. Dale Howey, 991 Parker Avenue

Mr. Howey indicated he was appreciative that Councilmember Strahan has brought this item forward. He explained his father was a WWII Veteran and committed

suicide at his kitchen table about twenty years ago and sixty percent of gun deaths are suicide. Veterans are one and a half times more likely to commit suicide by guns than the general population. He indicated there is an epidemic of gun violence in the country and he thought the least the City can do for the Veterans and service people is to make sure that there is a day to honor the recognition that there is an issue and the mental health issues that go along with being a Veteran sometimes conflate the problem.

Ms. Pam Bosch, 2497 Pascal St

Ms. Bosch indicated during a previous item someone asked what the purpose was of local government and what does local government do well and what was the purpose. She thought the purpose was to make everyone feel included and safe and seen in their community. The truth of the matter is that gun violence disproportionately affects communities of color so the opportunity of having a “wear orange”, a proclamation that honors victims of gun violence, what that really says is that the City and community sees them and acknowledges that they live in a nation ripe with gun violence. No other pure nation lives with kind of gun violence that America does and that disproportionately hits the communities of color. She thought this was a wonderful step forward for Roseville to think about signing a proclamation like this. She noted this item was brought forward by the Northeast Metro Moms Demand Action, which is a non-partisan gun violence prevention organization and is not political.

Ms. Jill Chisolm, 638 Lovell Avenue

Ms. Chisolm indicated she appreciated that this topic is being discussed. As part of Mom’s Demand Action, she has been educating groups in faith communities, schools, and various community organizations for several years about a specific area of gun violence that has not been raised and that is safety for children. By simply having a proclamation or some other way of having the community tune into the importance of keeping children from accessing firearms lives could be saved and that is really what it is all about. Firearms are the number one leading cause of death for children in the United States and they can prevent so many of these deaths. There are a high number of deaths in children by suicide using firearms, especially during the pandemic, as well as unintentional shootings. They need to raise awareness in the public that they need to store guns properly and keep them out of the hands of kids. A global proclamation about gun violence awareness could cover so many bases, unite the community, and save a lot of lives.

Mr. Bruce France, 2040 Lexington Avenue

Mr. France thanked the Council for taking up this subject. He worries about gun violence with kids and thought this is the first step. This is a problem that affects everyone and was happy that this is being brought forward.

Mr. Samuel Wallace, Roseville

Mr. Wallace explained he is a student at the Roseville Area High School and appreciated Councilmember Strahan for bringing up this issue. He reviewed statistics

of gun violence in the State of Minnesota. He indicated there is a high rate of success of suicide when guns are used. He believed a proclamation like this builds the City of Roseville's aspiration to be a more welcoming and inclusive place.

No one else wished to address the Council. Mayor Roe closed public comment for this item.

Councilmember Strahan appreciated all of the comments and because of all of the requests, she brought this forward to the Council. She did not think the Council could ignore this item and suggested instead of waiting to see what happens, the Council take action because this deeply impacts everyone in some way.

Mayor Roe asked what the Council would like to do with this item.

Groff moved, Strahan seconded, approving the proclamation Declaring the First Friday in June to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day.

Council Discussion

Councilmember Groff thought this covered most of the issues he was concerned about.

Mayor Roe noted the City should change the last paragraph to be consistent with the Proclamation language used in the City.

Mr. Trudgeon noted in the sixth Whereas, it states "Protecting public safety in the communities they serve is the Mayor's City's highest responsibility." Also in the eighth Whereas, "Mayor's Elected Officials and Law Enforcement Officers"

Councilmember Groff thought this is an awareness proclamation and makes people aware to start a conversation. Action needs to be taken at a different level but this is similar to the LGBTQIA+ Pride Month Proclamation. The conversation had to start, people needed to come up, start discussing it, and in the same way, this will start a conversation. The point about the safety of guns and education is a crucial factor. These are the things that come from a proclamation and will start conversations for change.

Councilmember Etten indicated he has a concern about passing something that was not a part of the Council packet and just put in front of the Council. He was not speaking to the content of it but to the process of it. He explained he would not vote for this because he has not had time to review this and there are several Whereas that are pointing to the starting point for this in Chicago. He agreed with the speakers about the concern of weapons available that should not be available and also about the shooting of a Roseville Police Officer. He would support work

by the City's Police Department to have gun locks and other things like that as a part of the education component but he cannot approve this right now.

Councilmember Willmus asked if there is a path forward for them to perhaps put the proclamation aside, given the time of things and make a statement more consistent with the RCA.

Mayor Roe indicated the Council needed to address the motion before them before more discussion can occur.

Strahan moved; Groff seconded to call the vote.

Roll Call (Strahan Motion to Call the Vote)

Ayes: Groff, Strahan.

Nays: Etten, Willmus, and Roe.

Mayor Roe indicated the motion to call the vote failed 3-2

Mayor Roe indicated he was torn about this because he thought there was something here the City can build on, especially in terms of gun violence awareness, education, safety, and a number of things. He thought the Council could move forward with those items but given the timing of where they are at with relation to taking action and especially the awareness being the First Friday in June, he wondered if there was something the Council could do by way of directing staff to promote Gun Violence Awareness Day, gun safety generally, and the efforts in that regard on that day and leading up to that day.

Roll Call (Original Groff Motion on the Proclamation)

Ayes: Groff, Strahan.

Nays: Etten, Willmus, and Roe.

Mayor Roe indicated the motion approving the proclamation failed 3-2.

Mayor Roe asked for suggestions from the Council.

Councilmember Willmus thought staff direction to coincide with National Gun Violence Awareness Day would be appropriate. He did think it would be appropriate at some point if a Roseville centric proclamation could come back to the Council at a future date.

Councilmember Groff suggested, since the motion did not pass, to review the proclamation, make it more Roseville centric, and bring it back earlier before time runs out for next year. He understood how the community feels frustrated because this was brought forward last year and the clock ran out and nothing was done then.

Mayor Roe thought the Council could direct staff to promote gun violence awareness. He noted he was a little wary about wearing orange because of particular advocacy groups and he understood this group is non-partisan natured but he was not sure that is understood enough in the community more broadly so he would definitely focus more on the awareness of gun violence and the ways to promote safety and education, especially ways the City can be involved with this.

Councilmember Etten agreed and thought if the City had a program that staff would want to highlight related to this, for example, gun locks that are available or other things which he would like to see promoted.

Councilmember Strahan asked if the Council could accentuate the things at the beginning of the proclamation, maybe up to the Whereas in January 2013 because she thought this was about as factual as anyone can get. She indicated this is an epidemic.

Mr. Trudgeon indicated he wanted to make sure about what the Council wanted staff to promote. He reviewed the items with the Council to promote. One being National Gun Violence Awareness Day but not wear orange. Another item to promote is whatever the City is doing to limit gun violence in the community and talk about some of the facts regarding gun deaths, specifically in Minnesota, and potentially try to draw a tie to Roseville. He was not sure what was possible for staff to do in the period of time and he wanted to make sure they are authentic with the intent of the Council.

Councilmember Strahan asked if it would be possible to motion this proclamation essentially with the changes from Mayor to Councilmembers with the absence of the bottom paragraph and the top three and the closing paragraph to revolve. She thought it would make it easier for the City if it was essentially what the Council was looking at. She wondered what else staff could add to make it more Roseville centric, noting the city had one man killed and a Police Officer shot. She asked if the Council wanted that fine tuning because people know and have read about this in the newspaper. If it is hard for the City to get something together and the Council has this opportunity to have ninety percent of it presented to them, she was not sure what would change.

Councilmember Willmus indicated with respect to social media he thought staff could certainly put information out there pertaining to statistics as well as to put information out for people in crisis and what the City can do in terms of gun locks. He thought the City could put information out about what the State certainly requires people to do that have guns in the home, etc. as far as locking up and storage. He noted there is a lot the City can do in a short span of time to coincide with National Gun Violence Awareness Day.

Councilmember Etten agreed and felt the stats are great. He also liked the crisis idea and the help the Police Department can do with gun locks. He thought the Council could think about this on a more global level later.

Mayor Roe explained he understood Councilmembers Etten's and Willmus' view regarding the proclamation landing on their desk this evening which is a point well taken in terms of there was opportunity for the information to be put into the packet where it could have been distributed with a chance to read it prior to the meeting, the Council could have responded much differently, and maybe even had some suggestions ready to offer in terms of language. He noted as a reminder going forward, it is helpful to make sure that when something is requested, there is the suggested action piece as a part of it and any material supporting that. He did not want that to be any sort of admonishment of any Councilmember. He thought even though Councilmember Strahan is new and does not know all of the arcane procedures, she is trying to get the City do something that is important. He stated the recognition of gun violence is important and there is no question that whatever the City can be doing to help, especially for their role in the City.

8. Council Direction on Councilmember Initiated Agenda Items

9. Approve Minutes

Comments and corrections to draft minutes had been submitted by the City Council prior to tonight's meeting and those revisions were incorporated into the draft presented in the Council packet.

a. Approve April 25, 2022 and May 9, 2022 City Council Meeting Minutes

Groff moved, Willmus seconded, approval of the April 25, 2022 and May 9, 2022 City Council Meeting Minutes as amended.

Roll Call

Ayes: Groff, Willmus, Strahan, Etten, and Roe.

Nays: None.

10. Approve Consent Agenda

At the request of Mayor Roe, City Manager Trudgeon briefly reviewed those items being considered under the Consent Agenda; and as detailed in specific Requests for Council Action dated May 23, 2022 and related attachments.

Strahan moved, Willmus seconded, approval of the Consent Agenda including claims and payments as presented and detailed.

Roll Call

Ayes: Groff, Willmus, Strahan, Etten, and Roe.

Nays: None.



National Gun Violence Awareness Month June 2023

Whereas: according to an analysis of international cause of death data, Americans are 26 times more likely to die by gun homicide than people on average in 28 other high-income countries; and

Whereas: the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) data indicates there are 117 Americans killed by gun violence every day, along with more than 200 who are shot and wounded, and on average there are over 16,500 gun homicides in the US every year; and

Whereas: data from the CDC indicated that in 2021, nearly 3,600 children aged 18 and under died in gun-related incidents, meaning that, for the first time, deaths of children by gun violence surpassed deaths due to traffic accidents, their previous leading cause of death; and

Whereas: analysis of CDC data shows that Black and Indigenous People and People of Color (BIPOC individuals) are disproportionately impacted by gun violence, with Black children and teens having the highest gun death rate among the nation's population at nearly four times the rate of White people, and Hispanic and Indigenous people dying by gun violence at twice the rate of White people; and

Whereas: CDC data and hospital admission & discharge data show that Minnesota has on average 497 gun deaths and 811 non-fatal gun injuries every year, including 128 homicides and 319 injuries due to criminal acts; and

Whereas: Roseville experiences gun violence, including the April 5, 2022, incident on West Lake Owasso Blvd. in which an individual recklessly fired at surrounding homes and cars and eventually shot and wounded Roseville Police Officer Ryan Duxbury; and

Whereas: Roseville and cities across the nation are working to end senseless violence with evidence-based solutions, including integration of social services and mental health support into public safety work, holding a free gun turn-in event in 2022 for community members to dispose of unwanted guns, and providing gun-locks free of charge to allow residents to better secure their guns in their homes; and

Whereas: protecting public safety in the community is one of the City's highest responsibilities; and

Whereas: upholding Second Amendment rights can and should go hand-in-hand with promoting safe and responsible gun ownership and use, including limiting gun access for persons with dangerous histories; and

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved that the City of Roseville renews its commitment to end gun violence and pledge to do all it can to keep firearms out of the wrong hands and encourage responsible gun ownership to help keep our community safe; and

Be It Further Resolved that City of Roseville declares the month of June 2023 to be National Gun Violence Awareness Month and encourages all citizens to support efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence.

In Witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Roseville be affixed this 20th day of June, 2023.

Mayor Daniel J. Roe