

RESOLUTION NO. 4721

A RESOLUTION TO REDUCE GUN VIOLENCE AND KEEP OUR COMMUNITY SAFE

WHEREAS, every day in America more than 100 Americans are killed by gun violence, including 5 children and teenagers; and

WHEREAS, Americans are 25 times more likely to be killed with guns than people in other developed countries, and Black Americans are 10 times more likely than white Americans to die by gun homicide; and

WHEREAS, in an average month, 53 American women are shot to death by an intimate partner, and many more are shot and wounded. Access to a gun in a domestic violence situation makes it five times more likely that a woman will be killed; and

WHEREAS, more than 1,800 American children die by gun homicide every year, and Black children and teens are 14 times more likely than white children and teens to die by gun homicide; and

WHEREAS, more than one-third of gun deaths in America are homicides, and access to a gun doubles the risk of death by homicide; and

WHEREAS, nearly two-thirds of gun deaths in America and four-fifths of gun deaths in Oregon are suicides. Moreover, from 2015-2019, firearm suicides accounted for 84 percent of all firearm deaths in Washington County; and

WHEREAS, access to a gun triples the risk of death by suicide; and

WHEREAS, it has been documented that the time between a suicidal thought and action can be as little as five to ten minutes, and thirty percent of Oregon teenagers said in a recent survey that they could access a loaded firearm within 10 minutes; and

WHEREAS, fifty-eight percent of American adults or someone they care for have experienced gun violence in their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, approximately three million American children witness gun violence every year; and

WHEREAS, our schools should be safe environments in which students and teachers need not fear gun violence; and

WHEREAS, between 2009-2018, 1,121 people were shot and killed in the United States in a mass shooting, and 836 more were shot and wounded; and

WHEREAS, on May 21, 1998 in Springfield, Oregon, after shooting and killing both of his parents the day before, a 15-year old student at Thurston High School opened fire on his fellow students, killing two and injuring 25 more; and

WHEREAS, children born in the United States after the mass shooting of students in Columbine on April 20, 1999, have known no other reality but one of fear of, and preparation for, gun violence in their schools; and

WHEREAS gun violence is a concern not only in our schools but across our communities, and every person in Beaverton deserves to live in a neighborhood free from the impacts of gun violence; and

WHEREAS, the City of Beaverton is committed to a holistic approach to ending gun violence in every Beaverton neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, firearm injuries are a public health epidemic, killing nearly 40,000 Americans each year, and injuring hundreds of thousands more; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, 566 Oregonians died from firearm injuries, compared to 506 deaths from automobile injuries and about 350 from opioid overdose; and

WHEREAS, according to the Oregon Health Authority there has been an increase in firearm-related emergency department visits since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, firearm injuries, whether accidental or intentional, are predictable and therefore preventable; and

WHEREAS, investing in violence prevention produces measurable results. In 54 percent of mass shootings, the shooter exhibited dangerous warning signs before the shooting; and,

WHEREAS, protecting public safety in the communities they serve is one of the most serious and fundamental responsibilities of elected officials.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF BEAVERTON, OREGON:

And the City Council that this resolution expresses our commitment to reduce gun violence and do all we can to keep firearms out of the wrong hands, encourage responsible gun ownership and keep our community safe. We strongly support the efforts in our community to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value all human lives.

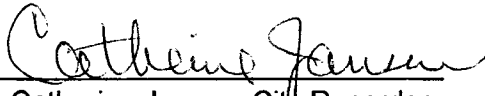
Adopted by the Council this 13th day of April, 2021.

Approved by the Mayor this 14th day of April, 2021.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Attest:


Catherine Jansen, City Recorder

Approved:


Lacey Beaty, Mayor