

RESOLUTION NO. _____

WHEREAS, twelve years since the mass shooting at Virginia Tech, two years since the Congressional baseball shooting at our own Simpson Field, and mere weeks since the mass shooting at the Virginia Beach Municipal Center, we continue to face the ongoing epidemic of gun violence in our state and our nation;

WHEREAS, the most recent gun violence tragedy hit especially close to home, with the mass shooting at the Virginia Beach Municipal Center claiming twelve more innocent lives, including eleven Virginia Beach city employees and one contractor in the building to obtain a permit from city staff;

WHEREAS, in 2017, more than 39,000 Americans – including 1,028 Virginians – died as a result of gun violence;

WHEREAS, Virginia is one of seventeen states where more people are killed annually due to gun violence than die in car accidents;

WHEREAS, in Virginia, women are killed with guns by intimate partners at a higher rate than the national average;

WHEREAS, suicide rates in Virginia are slowly increasing, with handguns the cause of death in suicides in almost 60 percent of cases;

WHEREAS, ongoing political inaction at the state level forces us to confront the limited ability of local governments to enact common sense gun safety measures in our communities, including in our own government buildings, libraries, recreation centers, parks, and public spaces;

WHEREAS, we recognize that our inability to enact common sense gun safety measures in our community has a significant impact on our core responsibility to create a safe and resilient city for every resident, worker and visitor in Alexandria;

WHEREAS, our state and our nation have waited far too long to properly address the preventable devastation of gun violence in our communities and we will wait no longer;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of Alexandria, Virginia, that the City of Alexandria expresses its unwavering support for the upcoming Special Session of the Virginia General Assembly to address gun violence in Virginia and echoes Governor Northam’s call for “votes and laws” not just thoughts and prayers to truly address the emergency of gun violence in our state;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council urges the members of the General Assembly to support common sense gun safety legislation during the upcoming Special Session, including:

- universal background checks for all gun buyers;
- “red flag” or “extreme risk protective order” legislation to create a legal process for the temporary removal of firearms from individuals deemed to pose an imminent risk of violence to themselves or others;
- bans on assault weapons, high-capacity magazines, armor piercing ammunition, and bump stocks;
- child access prevention laws to limit child access to firearms and reduce suicides and unintentional gun deaths and injuries of children;
- reinstating the “one-gun-a-month” law;
- and legislation granting localities the authority to prohibit or restrict the possession, transportation or carrying of firearms in public buildings or on other property owned by a locality;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the City Council urges the members of the General Assembly to adopt rules and procedures for the upcoming Special Session that provide the entire General Assembly the opportunity to vote on all filed legislation and to consider each proposal on its own merits in an open, transparent process.

Adopted:

JUSTIN M. WILSON, MAYOR
On behalf of the City Council of Alexandria, Virginia

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC
City Clerk