

Introduced by: Councilmember Kostiuk

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

RESOLUTION 2018-16

A RESOLUTION CONDEMNING ACTS OF GUN VIOLENCE AND SUPPORTING THE “MARCH FOR OUR LIVES” AND OTHER EFFORTS TO REDUCE GUN VIOLENCE

- WHEREAS,** on February 14, 2018, there were 17 students and staff killed and more injured in a mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. This shooting impacted the lives of countless family members and friends of the victims, the residents of Florida, and the nation; and
- WHEREAS,** there were 35,626 firearm deaths in the United States and 708 firearms deaths in Maryland in 2015.¹ In 2014, there were 11,008 homicides involving a firearm² and 21,386 suicides involving firearms³ in the United States; and
- WHEREAS,** gun violence affects all communities with a disproportionate impact on people of color. In 2010, the rate of firearm homicide for black people was 5 to 6 times higher than for any other racial group, and the rate of nonfatal firearm violence for black and Hispanic people was higher than non-Hispanic white peoples;⁴ and
- WHEREAS,** the “March for Our Lives” planned for March 24, 2018, in Washington, DC, and in “sister marches” throughout the country are peaceful rallies created by and led by students across the country who are demanding action be taken to stop gun violence and the epidemic of mass school shootings and demand that their lives and safety become a priority; and
- WHEREAS,** other peaceful efforts to call attention to and reduce gun violence have been and continue to take place throughout the country; and
- WHEREAS,** the City of Takoma Park is committed to the safety and wellbeing of its residents, including protection from acts of gun violence; and
- WHEREAS,** the State of Maryland prohibits local governments from regulating the purchase, sale, taxation, transfer, manufacture, repair, ownership, possession and transportation of handguns, rifles, shotguns and ammunition under the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article Criminal Law Section § 4-209.

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/states/maryland/maryland.htm>

² <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/homicide.htm>

³ <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/suicide.htm>

⁴ <https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/fv9311.pdf>

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Takoma Park condemns gun violence and urges swift State and Federal legislative action and support for programs that reduce gun violence; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City of Takoma Park supports the peaceful “March for Our Lives” and other peaceful efforts to reduce mass shootings and gun violence; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City Council calls on legislators in the Maryland General Assembly, the United States House of Representatives, and the United States Senate to address conditions that exacerbate gun violence, provide funding for programs shown to reduce gun violence, prevent access to firearms by persons with violent or suicidal behavior, prevent conversion of semi-automatic weapons to automatic weapons, limit the number of firearms that may be purchased per month, limit magazine capacity, ban assault-style weapons, institute a mandatory waiting period and expand background checks at the federal level, and take other steps to reduce gun violence in our communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City Council supports the following:

- Maryland HB888/SB707 to ban rapid-fire triggers such as those that have been used in mass shootings in the U.S.; and
- Maryland HB819/SB741 to eliminate the Handgun Review Board and place hearings for appeals of Wear and Carry permits in the Office of Administrative Hearings; and
- Maryland HB432/SB545 to provide funding to municipalities for evidence-based programs to reduce gun homicide; and
- Maryland HB1302 to allow families and household members, as well as law enforcement officers, to petition a court to remove a person’s access to guns if he/she poses an imminent danger to self or others; and
- Maryland HB1646/SB1036 to require written notice to a defendant who has been charged with a disqualifying domestic violence crime that it is illegal if convicted of a disqualifying crime to possess or own a firearm, and order the convicted defendant to transfer his/her firearms.

Adopted by the Takoma Park City Council this 14th day of March, 2018.

Attest:

Jessie Carpenter, CMC
City Clerk