

PROCLAMATION



WHEREAS, every day, more than 120 Americans are killed by gun violence, alongside more than 200 who are shot/wounded, with an average of more than 17,000 gun homicides every year; and

WHEREAS, Americans are 26 times more likely to die by gun homicide than people in other high-income countries; and

WHEREAS, Missouri has 1,351 gun deaths every year, with a rate of 22.3 deaths per 100,000 people, a crisis that costs the state \$17.6 billion each year, of which \$455.3 million is paid by taxpayers. Missouri has the 7th highest rate of gun deaths in the US; and

WHEREAS, gun violence prevention is more important than ever as we see an increase in firearm homicides, and nonfatal shootings across the country, increased calls to domestic violence hotlines, and an increase in city gun violence; and

WHEREAS, support for the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens goes hand-in-hand with keeping guns away from people with dangerous histories; and

WHEREAS, mayors and law enforcement officers – in partnership with local violence intervention activists and resources – know their communities best, are the most familiar with local criminal activity and how to address it, and are best positioned to understand how to keep their citizens safe; and

WHEREAS, we renew our commitment to reduce gun violence and pledge to do all we can to keep firearms out of the hands of people who should not have access to them, and encourage responsible gun ownership to help keep our families and communities safe.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, William A. Baird, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Lee's Summit, Missouri, do hereby proclaim June 2, 2023 as

NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY

to encourage all citizens to support their local communities' efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value human lives.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the City of Lee's Summit, Missouri, this day of May 2023.

MAYOR WILLIAM A. BAIRD