

CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK

RESOLUTION NO. 87-2022

**A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR FEDERAL AND STATE ACTION
ON ASSAULT WEAPONS, LARGE CAPACITY MAGAZINES, AND GUN VIOLENCE**

WHEREAS, on July 4, 2022, the community of Highland Park was shocked and devastated by the mass shooting committed at the City's Independence Day parade, in which seven people were killed and dozens were injured by a shooter using an AR-15 style weapon and large capacity magazines; and

WHEREAS, innumerable members of our community suffered and continue to suffer emotional harm and anguish as a result of the July 4th mass shooting; and

WHEREAS, the City is committed to providing residents, victims, and all those affected by the July 4th mass shooting with the support needed to heal as it continues to ally with local, county, state, and federal governments as well as private entities in order to assist in the difficult process of providing counseling, support, and recovery services to those traumatized by the mass shooting; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to identify, respond to, and call for, reform concerning health and safety crises that adversely impact the physical, emotional, and social wellbeing of its residents; and

WHEREAS, the City is deeply concerned that gun-related violence is endemic in our society, with more than 300 mass shooting events in the United States thus far in 2022; and

WHEREAS, the American Public Health Association has found that gun violence is a leading cause of premature death in the United States, killing more than 38,000 people and injuring nearly 85,000 every year; and

WHEREAS, gun violence is now the leading cause of death among children and teens in this country age 19 and younger; and

WHEREAS, the weapon used at the July 4th mass shooting was an assault weapon, that fired 83 rounds into a crowd in under a minute; and

WHEREAS, assault weapons are military-grade weapons, designed and configured for combat use with the sole purpose of killing as many people as possible, as quickly as possible; and

WHEREAS, large capacity magazines are often used in mass shootings because they allow a shooter to keep firing for longer periods of time and because they can fire at large numbers of people without taking time to reload thereby dramatically increasing the number of lives shattered by gun violence because those in the line of fire do not have a chance to escape and law enforcement does not have the chance to intervene; and

WHEREAS, assault weapons and large-capacity magazines are combat weapons and do not belong in the hands of civilians; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, the Corporate Authorities of this City passed an ordinance banning assault weapons and large-capacity magazines and thereafter successfully defended the constitutionality of that ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the Corporate Authorities of this City recognized in 2013, and recognize even more clearly today, that the effectiveness of a local assault weapon and large capacity magazine ban is severely inadequate without similar regulation at both the state and federal level; and

WHEREAS, eight states and the District of Columbia have constitutional assault weapon bans in effect; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress had a federal assault weapon ban in effect between 1994-2004, during which time assault weapon-derived mass shootings diminished by 70%; and

WHEREAS, the majority of Americans support a federal ban on assault weapons and large capacity magazines; and

WHEREAS, our community is not alone in being forced to respond to and undertake the difficult process of recovery from the loss and trauma resulting from gun violence; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress and the Illinois General Assembly must stop this threat to our American freedom and take immediate action to ban assault weapons and large-capacity magazines so that they cannot be used by civilians on our streets, in our markets, in our houses of worship, in our schools, at our parades, or anywhere in our daily lives regardless of location.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF HIGHLAND PARK, LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS, as follows:

SECTION ONE: RECITALS. The foregoing recitals are incorporated into, and made a part of, this Resolution as findings of the City Council.

SECTION TWO: DECLARATION OF SOLIDARITY AND CALL TO ACTION.

1. We stand with our local, county, and state governmental bodies, and public and civic service organizations, in calling for the governing bodies of the United States and the State of Illinois to take effective and comprehensive action to protect our communities from gun violence.

2. We call for the United States Congress and the State of Illinois to:
 - a. Ban the manufacture, purchase, sale, possession, and use of all semi-automatic weapons, high-capacity ammunition cartridges and magazines, and body armor, except as needed by military and law enforcement bodies.
 - b. Enact legislation requiring and strengthening universal background checks, waiting periods, and age requirements, eliminating exceptions to any such requirements, to acquire and possess any firearms.
 - c. Enact legislation strengthening “red flag” laws to better allow law enforcement, family members, employers, coworkers, and school employees to seek restraining orders against an individual suspected of being a clear and present danger to themselves or others.
 - d. Enact legislation providing for strict liability and higher penalties for straw buyers and for sellers who sell to straw buyers.
 - e. Enact legislation mandating the safe storage of firearms as a condition for firearms ownership.
 - f. Enact legislation mandating the completion of adequate training as a condition for selling or possessing firearms.
3. We call for the United States Congress to repeal the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act, and all other statutes providing immunity to liability for the manufacturers and sellers of firearms for their negligence, recklessness, or failure to know their customers and their potential for harm to the public in the marketing and sale of firearms.
4. We call for the State of Illinois to enact stricter rules for the issuance of Firearms Owners Identification (“**FOID**”) cards, and we call for the State to more rigorously screen applicants for FOID cards and make more comprehensive use of clear and present danger reporting data in connection with the review of FOID card applications.

SECTION THREE: EFFECTIVE DATE. This Resolution will be in full force and effect upon its passage and approval by a majority of the members of the City Council.

AYES: Mayor Rotering, Councilmembers Tapia, Stolberg, Stone, Blumberg, Holleman, Lidawer

NAYS: None

PASSED: August 15, 2022

APPROVED: August 15, 2022

RESOLUTION NO.: R87-2022

Nancy R. Rotering

Nancy R. Rotering, Mayor

ATTEST:

Ghida S. Neukirch

Ghida S. Neukirch, City Clerk