

RESOLUTION NO. 089-2024(CRR), *First Reading*

By President Cuda, Vice President Russell, Councilmember Cobb, Councilmember Larson, Councilmember Mattox, Councilmember Petras, and Councilmember Posch

A Resolution proclaiming June 7, 2024, to be *National Gun Violence Awareness Day* in the City of Cleveland Heights; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

WHEREAS, every day, ninety-six (96) Americans are killed by gun violence and on average there are nearly 13,000 gun homicides every year; and

WHEREAS, a “mass killing” is defined as an act of violence in which four or more people, excluding the offender, are killed within a 24-hour time frame; and

WHEREAS, according to the Mass Killing Database maintained by Northeastern University, the Associated Press, and USA Today, firearms were involved in about 80% of mass killings over the last 18 years, 27 of which were committed in Ohio at the cost of more than 100 lives; and

WHEREAS, Ohio has seen a 52% increase in total firearm deaths over the last 10 years, now averaging 1,820 per year; according to Ohio Department of Health, firearm homicides alone averaged 823 per year over the last three years, compared to 431 per year from 2010-2012; and

WHEREAS, Americans are twenty-five (25) times more likely to be victims of gun homicide than people in other developed countries; and

WHEREAS, protecting the public’s safety is the Mayor’s highest priority; and

WHEREAS, support for the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens goes hand-in-hand with common sense gun control legislation; and

WHEREAS, mayors, city managers, and law enforcement officers know their communities best, are most familiar with local criminal activity and how to address it, and are best positioned to keep their communities safe; and

WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon this Council, in the wake of the recent fatal shooting of Euclid Police Officer Jacob Derbin, to once again raise awareness of the impact gun violence has on our community; and

WHEREAS, this Council offers its deepest condolences to Officer Derbin’s family and friends; and

WHEREAS, Americans will raise awareness about gun violence and honor the lives it has taken by wearing orange on June 7, 2024; and

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WHEREAS, this Council is committed to reducing gun violence and pledges to do all it can to support common sense gun control legislation, encourage responsible gun ownership, and keep our children safe; and

WHEREAS, this Council passed Resolution No. 41-2018 to urge state and federal governments to enact common sense gun laws to help reduce gun violence; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cleveland Heights is honored to take part in the annual observance of *National Gun Violence Awareness Day* to remember and pay tribute to all victims and survivors of gun violence, and to declare that we as a country must do more to eliminate gun violence.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, that:

SECTION 1. This Council hereby declares June 7, 2024, to be *National Gun Violence Awareness Day* in the City of Cleveland Heights and encourages residents to wear orange on that day in solidarity with those who have lost a loved one to gun violence, the communities impacted by those losses, and the ongoing fight against gun violence.

SECTION 2. Notice of the passage of this Resolution shall be given by publishing the title and abstract of its contents, prepared by the Director of Law, once in one newspaper of general circulation in the City of Cleveland Heights.

SECTION 3. It is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective as an emergency measure necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety of the inhabitants of the City of Cleveland Heights, such emergency being the need to recognize *National Gun Violence Awareness Day* in a timely manner. Wherefore, provided it receives the affirmative vote of five (5) or more members elected or appointed to this Council, this Resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage; otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest time allowed by law.



TONY CUDA
President of Council

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ADDIE BALESTER
Clerk of Council

PASSED: May 20, 2024

Presented to Mayor: 05/22/2024 Approved: 05/28/2024



KAHLIL SEREN
Mayor