

OFFICE OF



THE MAYOR

# PROCLAMATION

## ***Gun Violence Awareness Day 2024***

This proclamation declares the first Friday in June to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day in St. Charles, IL to honor and remember all victims and survivors of gun violence and to declare that we as a country must do more to end this public health crisis.

**WHEREAS**, every day, 120 Americans are killed by gun violence and more than 200 are shot and wounded, with an average of nearly 18,000 gun homicides every year; and Americans are 26 times more likely to die by gun homicide than people in other high-income countries; and

**WHEREAS**, in Illinois has 1,657 gun deaths every year, with a rate of 13.2 deaths per 100,000 people, a crisis that costs the state \$18.6 billion each year, of which \$625.5 million is paid by taxpayers. Illinois has the 35<sup>th</sup> highest rate of gun deaths in the US; 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, how to address it, and are best positioned to understand how to keep their citizens safe and find evidence-based solutions for their communities; 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;

**WHEREAS**, by wearing orange on June 7, 2024, Americans will raise awareness about gun violence and honor the lives of gun violence victims and survivors; 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 BE IT RESOLVED**, that I, Mayor Lora Vitek, of the city of St. Charles declare the first Friday in June, June 7, 2024, to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day. I encourage all citizens to support their local communities' efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value human lives.



*Lora A. Vitek*  
Lora A. Vitek, Mayor