

OFFICE OF



THE MAYOR

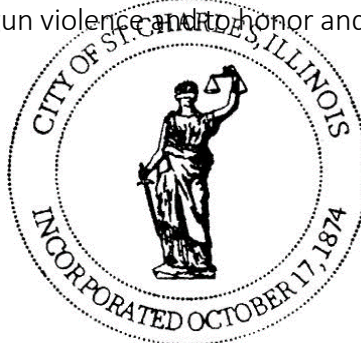
# PROCLAMATION

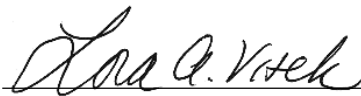
## ***Gun Violence Awareness Day 2023***

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

- WHEREAS,** every day, more than 120 Americans are killed by gun violence, alongside more than 200 who are shot and wounded; and Americans are 26 times more likely to die by gun homicide than people in other high-income countries;
- WHEREAS,** Illinois has an average of 1622 gun deaths every year, with a rate of 12.9 deaths per 100,000 people;
- WHEREAS,** cities across the nation, including St. Charles, are working to end the senseless violence with evidence-based solutions;
- WHEREAS,** support for the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens goes hand-in-hand with keeping guns away from people with dangerous histories;
- WHEREAS,** mayors and law enforcement officers 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;
- 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,** anyone can join this campaign by wearing orange on June 2, 2023 to raise awareness about gun violence and honor the lives of gun violence victims and survivors;
- 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, Lora Vitek, Mayor of the City of St. Charles, do hereby proclaim June 2, 2023, 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, Mayor