

City of Simpsonville Proclamation

Every day, more than 120 Americans are killed by gun violence and more than 200 are shot and wounded, with an average of more than 17,000 gun homicides every year. Americans are 26 times more likely to die by gun homicide than people in other high-income countries.

In South Carolina there are 1,044 gun deaths every year, with a rate of 20.5 deaths per 100,000 people, a crisis that costs the state \$14 billion each year, of which \$371.9 million is paid by taxpayers. South Carolina has the 10th highest rate of gun deaths in the United States.

Gun homicides and assaults are concentrated in cities, with more than half of all firearm related gun deaths in the nation occurring in 127 cities. Cities across the nation, including Simpsonville, are working to end the senseless violence with evidence-based solutions.

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

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.

With these thoughts in mind, 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, Mayor Paul Shewmaker, do hereby proclaim Friday, the 2nd day of June as

NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY

in the City of Simpsonville and urge all citizens to recognize this day by wearing orange to honor the lives of gun violence victims and survivors.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Simpsonville to be affixed this 23rd day of May in the year of our Lord 2023.

Paul Shewmaker

PAUL SHEWMAKER, MAYOR