

COUNTY COUNCIL OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND

Legislative Session 2023, Legislative Day No. 13

Resolution No. 31-23

Introduced by Ms. Rodvien, Ms. Hummer, Ms. Pickard, and Mr. Smith

By the County Council, July 3, 2023

1 RESOLUTION remembering the victims of gun violence in Anne Arundel County and
2 urging the United States Congress to enact stronger safety requirements and restrictions on
3 firearms to prevent death and injury

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5 WHEREAS, June 28, 2023 marked the five-year anniversary of the Capital Gazette
6 mass shooting, where five members of the Annapolis and Anne Arundel County
7 communities lost their lives to gun violence; and

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9 WHEREAS, as gun violence continues to plague our communities and just three
10 weeks prior to the anniversary of the Capital Gazette tragedy, Annapolis
11 experienced it's second deadliest mass shooting tragedy when three people
12 needlessly lost their lives and three others were injured during a neighborhood
13 birthday party that was interrupted by gun violence; and

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15 WHEREAS, despite efforts at the State and local levels, gun violence continues to
16 rise in the United States, and in 2021 more than 48,000 people died from gun-
17 related injuries according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

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19 WHEREAS, guns are the leading cause of death among children and teens in
20 Maryland, and in Anne Arundel County, 15% of all police reported gun incidents
21 involve a child under 18 years old; and

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23 WHEREAS, in 2022 there were 28 gun related fatalities in Anne Arundel County,
24 more than half of which were gun related suicides, making firearms the leading
25 means of suicide deaths as well as a public health crisis; and

26
27 WHEREAS, Anne Arundel County has taken several steps to end gun violence,
28 including, declaring gun violence to be a public health crisis, creating the Gun
29 Violence Intervention Team to implement public health strategies to reduce firearm
30 fatalities, establishing a pilot program that has distributed more than 1,000 gun
31 locks, passing legislation to require gun retailers distribute gun safety literature,
32 promoting the use of Extreme Risk Protective Orders ("red flag"), and funding
33 violence interruption programs; and

34
35 WHEREAS, because mental health issues are, in some instances, recognized as an
36 underlying cause of gun violence, the County Council passed legislation in 2021 to
37 require that establishments that sell guns also provide buyers with information on
38 suicide prevention, mental health resources, and conflict resolution; and

1 WHEREAS, the Anne Arundel County Department of Health, through the Gun
2 Violence Intervention Team, is launching programs aimed at reducing the stigma
3 around mental health care, identifying risk factors and trauma early, and using
4 evidence based gun violence interventions to protect people; and

5
6 WHEREAS, the State of Maryland has taken action to end gun violence and protect
7 State residents by prohibiting access to ghost guns, limiting the locations an
8 individual may carry a firearm, restricting eligibility for a handgun permit,
9 increasing penalties for violating the prohibition against wearing, carrying, or
10 transporting a handgun, expanding the prohibition on access to a firearm by an
11 unsupervised child, establishing a curriculum of instruction for the handgun permit
12 safety course, and requiring the Secretary of State Police to revoke the permit of
13 any individual who no longer meets the required handgun permit qualifications;
14 and

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16 WHEREAS, gun violence is prevalent not only in Anne Arundel County, but in
17 every jurisdiction across the Nation, and is a national problem that requires the
18 significant resources of our partners in the United States Congress to solve; now,
19 therefore, be it

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21 *Resolved by the County Council of Anne Arundel County, Maryland,* That it hereby
22 remembers and honors the victims of gun violence in Anne Arundel County and urges the
23 United States Congress to enact more effective safety requirements and restrictions on
24 firearms to prevent unnecessary injury and tragic loss of life caused by the use of firearms;
25 and be it further

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27 *Resolved,* That a copy of this Resolution be sent to U.S. Senators Benjamin L. Cardin
28 and Christopher Van Hollen, Jr.; U.S. Representatives C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger III, John
29 P. Sarbanes, Glenn F. Ivey, and Steny H. Hoyer; and County Executive Steuart Pittman.

READ AND PASSED this 3rd day of July, 2023.

By Order:



Laura Corby
Administrative Officer

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT RESOLUTION NO. 31-23 IS TRUE AND CORRECT AND DULY
ADOPTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY.



Peter I. Smith
Chair