

PROCLAMATION

NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE SURVIVORS WEEK

FEBRUARY 1-7, 2023

This proclamation declares the week of February 1, 2023 to February 7, 2023 to be National Gun Violence Survivors Week in the Village of Oak Park to honor and remember all victims and survivors of gun violence and uplift the resilient voices of survivors across the nation.

WHEREAS, every year, nearly 40,000 Americans are killed in acts of gun violence and approximately 76,000 more are shot and wounded;

WHEREAS, every year, on average, 1,505 Illinoisans are killed in acts of gun violence and 2,715 more are shot and wounded;

WHEREAS, by early February, more Americans are killed with guns than are killed in our peer countries in an entire calendar year;

WHEREAS, a gun violence survivor is anyone who has personally experienced gun violence — whether you have witnessed an act of gun violence, been threatened or wounded with a gun, or had someone you know and cared for wounded or killed;

WHEREAS, forms of gun violence can include, but are not limited to: gun suicides, gun homicides, domestic violence involving a gun, shootings by law enforcement, and unintentional shootings;

WHEREAS, 59 percent of American adults, including 71 percent of Black and Latinx Americans, or someone they care for has experienced gun violence in their lifetime, demonstrating the reach and impact gun violence has in communities across America;

WHEREAS, firearms are the leading cause of death for children and teens;

WHEREAS, people in America in cities across the nation are working to end the senseless violence by advocating for commonsense gun safety legislation;

WHEREAS, by commemorating National Gun Violence Survivors Week on February 1 to February 7, cities across America will raise awareness about gun violence and honor the lives stolen by gun violence; and

WHEREAS, we renew our commitment to reduce gun violence, including the presence of strategies in our IPLAN, and pledge to do all we can to keep firearms out of the hands of those who are a danger to themselves or others and encourage responsible gun ownership to help keep our communities safe.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village of Oak Park declares February 1 to February 7, 2023 to be National Gun Violence Survivors Week. We encourage all citizens to support their communities' efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value human lives.

DATED this 6th day of February 2023.

Vicki Scaman
Village President

ATTEST

Christina M. Waters
Village Clerk