



City of Richmond

Special Meeting Minutes

900 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219
www.richmondgov.com/cityclerk

Tuesday, September 8, 2020

5:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall
Virtual Meeting

Councilmembers Present

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille, President
The Honorable Chris Hilbert, Vice President
The Honorable Andreas Addison
The Honorable Kim Gray
The Honorable Michael Jones
The Honorable Kristen Larson
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch (late arrival)
The Honorable Ellen Robertson (late arrival)
The Honorable Reva Trammell

Council President Cynthia Newbille called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m., and presided.

ELECTRONIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

City Clerk Candice Reid, in accordance with Ordinance No. 2020-093, adopted April 9, 2020, as amended by Ordinance No. 2020-183, adopted August 20, 2020, announced the meeting would be held through electronic communication means. City Clerk Reid stated notice of the meeting was provided to the public through a public information advisory issued on August 25, 2020, and through Legistar on the city website in accordance with usual practice. She also stated members of the public were encouraged to provide comments in writing prior to the meeting and all comments received prior to 10:00 a.m., on Tuesday, September 8, 2020, were provided to Council members. Ms. Reid indicated that members of the public who signed up to speak and provide comment would be called to speak at the appropriate time.

CITIZEN SPEAKER GUIDELINES

Upon the President's request, Deputy City Clerk RJ Warren provided citizen speaker guidelines.

PAPER FOR CONSIDERATION

The following ordinance was considered:

ORD. 2020-184

To amend and reordain City Code § 19-334.1, which prohibits the carrying of firearms within certain places, to modify the nature and extent of the firearms and prohibited places subject to inclusion as permitted by Va. Code § 15.2-915.

Citizens were provided an opportunity to offer comments in writing regarding ORD. 2020-184, prior to the Special City Council meeting. All written comments received by the Office of the City Clerk were provided to members of the Council prior to the meeting and are included as an appendix to the September 8, 2020 Special City Council meeting minutes.

Public Hearing

Michael Dickinson spoke in opposition of ORD. 2020-184, and stated the Second Amendment provided the right for self-defense. Mr. Dickinson also stated the Second Amendment allowed citizens to protect themselves when the police were unable to do so.

Dr. Dennis Petrocelli, Doctors for Responsible Gun Ownership member, spoke in opposition of ORD. 2020-184. Dr. Petrocelli referenced the New York Secure Ammunition and Firearms Enforcement Act of 2013 (New York SAFE Act), and stated that gun control legislation was discriminatory, because it was predominantly enforced on minority communities.

Bobbie Crowell spoke in opposition of ORD. 2020-184, and stated Council had the obligation to protect the United States Constitutional rights of citizens. Ms. Crowell expressed her belief that ORD. 2020-184 infringed upon the Second Amendment and her right to bear arms.

Charles Margerison spoke in opposition of ORD. 2020-184, and expressed his concerns regarding the number of public events that occur in the city and the likelihood of unintentionally attending such an event while carrying a firearm. Mr. Margerison stated he believed it was necessary that he carry a firearm due to his work as a mental health professional that interacted with violent criminals.

Police Chief Gerald Smith addressed Council and provided additional information regarding ORD. 2020-184. Chief Smith stated the proposed ordinance would be a tool used by the Richmond Police Department (RPD) to strengthen public safety. Chief Smith also stated RPD would enforce ORD. 2020-184 in an inclusive way to protect all citizens.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch joined the meeting at 5:20 p.m.

Councilor Kristen Larson inquired about the results of other localities enforcing similar firearm regulations.

David Mitchell, RPD general counsel, informed Council he was unaware of any legal challenges against similar firearm regulations enacted by other localities.

Lincoln Saunders, Office of the Mayor chief of staff, informed Council that retired police officers were exempt from the firearm regulations referenced in ORD. 2020-184, that firearm possession was permitted in parking garages that were not connected to government buildings, and that individuals adjacent to a permitted or unpermitted event were exempt and allowed to carry a firearm, so long as the individuals were in transit and not attending the event.

Councilor Andreas Addison inquired how citizens are expected to determine when an event is permitted or unpermitted. Councilor Addison also asked how the ordinance would be enforced at an unpermitted event.

Interim City Attorney Haskell Brown informed Council that for ORD. 2020-184 to be enforced, the posting of signs referencing the prohibition of firearms within the area of a permitted or unpermitted event was required.

Chief Smith stated RPD would seek compliance prior to enforcement of the ordinance. Chief Smith also stated RPD would use information obtained on social media to post required signage prior to an unpermitted event.

Councilor Kim Gray expressed her concerns about the potential for unpermitted events to move locations where signage was not posted during a march or demonstration.

Vice President Chris Hilbert stated he believed ORD. 2020-184 would help protect the First Amendment right of citizens to peacefully protest and assemble. Vice President Hilbert expressed his concerns that individuals carrying firearms did so in order to intimidate others.

Councilor Ellen Robertson joined the meeting at 5:31 p.m.

Councilor Addison inquired about the legality of individuals possessing firearms on personal property if an unpermitted gathering occurred outside the personal property.

Interim City Attorney Brown confirmed that an individual possessing a firearm was permitted to do so while remaining on the individual's personal property. Mr. Brown also addressed how RPD would enforce ORD. 2020-184 at a gathering of individuals conducting other illegal activity not referenced in the ordinance.

There were no further comments or discussions and **ORD. 2020-184 was unanimously adopted.**

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

CITY CLERK

From: [Hampton Roads Moms](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Tuesday's Vote on Local Gun Safety Ordinance
Date: Sunday, September 6, 2020 11:04:23 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Stoney & City Council,

I am a mother, a military spouse, a member of Moms Demand Action, and a citizen of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Thank you for your civil service. We are grateful for your time and recognize it is both a privilege & sacrifice to serve as government officials representing the citizens of Richmond, our Commonwealth's capital.

I am writing to urge you to pass a local gun safety ordinance prohibiting firearms from any public road or walkway being used by, or adjacent to, an event that requires a city permit.

I experienced first-hand the chilling effect on my 1st Amendment Rights by gun extremists and self-proclaimed militia. I desired to peaceably assemble and address my duly elected VA state delegate and senator on January 20, 2020, Martin Luther King Jr. Day. I was unable to safely exercise my rights when thousands of armed extremists from out of state descended on Richmond, the seat of our Commonwealth's government. If the FBI had not thwarted domestic terrorist plots to shoot and kill people on the streets of Richmond adjacent to the Capitol Building in the hopes of starting a civil war, we would tragically and clearly see the need for the passage of this gun safety ordinance. Let us be prudent and NOT WAIT for such a tragic loss of life in order to ACT.

January 20th was *not* a peaceful protest with ordinary citizens of Virginia exercising their 2nd Amendment Rights. It was an organized SHOW OF FORCE of ARMED MILITIAS from across our country designed to INTIMIDATE and INCITE VIOLENCE. Look at what is happening across our nation now as self-proclaimed militias insert themselves in peaceful protests. We are witnessing, in real time, the tragic bloodshed and loss of life due to the lawful presence of firearms at peaceful protests. Let Richmond lead the way to say: ARMED EXTREMISTS are NOT WELCOME in

Virginia's capital.

January 20th was clearly a direct infringement on the 1st Amendment Rights of Virginians-- of mothers and fathers who have lost their children to gun violence, of countless families who have forever been changed due to gun violence, and of citizens like me who turned out en masse to vote for gun safety laws that are both constitutional and effective.

Thank you for listening and understanding that your actions in Richmond affect all citizens of the Commonwealth, including me, a mother of two boys, and a mother standing up for all the children in our community to be free to flourish and thrive without fearing for their lives when exercising their rights.

With gratitude & respect,

Sibel Galindez

From: [maureen.yap](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Support for Restricting Firearms on Public Property
Date: Sunday, September 6, 2020 4:30:41 PM

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Dear Mayor Stoney & City Council,

I am a mother of a university student in Richmond, a member of Moms Demand Action, and a citizen of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

I am writing to urge you to pass a local gun safety ordinance prohibiting firearms from any public road or walkway being used by, or adjacent to, an event that requires a city permit.

I experienced first-hand the chilling effect on my 1st Amendment Rights by gun extremists and self-proclaimed militia. I desired to peaceably assemble and address my duly elected VA state delegate and senator on January 20, 2020, Martin Luther King Jr. Day. I was unable to safely exercise my rights when thousands of armed extremists from out of state descended on Richmond, the seat of our Commonwealth's government. If the FBI had not thwarted domestic terrorist plots to shoot and kill people on the streets of Richmond adjacent to the Capitol Building in the hopes of starting a civil war, we would tragically and clearly see the need for the passage of this gun safety ordinance. Let us be prudent and NOT WAIT for such a tragic loss of life in order to ACT.

Thank you for listening and understanding that your actions in Richmond affect all citizens of the Commonwealth, including me, a mother of two sons (one at a university in Richmond), and a mother standing up for all the children in our community to be free to flourish and thrive without fearing for their lives when exercising their rights.

With gratitude & respect,

Maureen Yap

From: [Laura Swanson](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Comment for council meeting re: local gun control
Date: Sunday, September 6, 2020 7:12:31 PM

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Dear Councilpeople,

As a Richmond resident and mom of two, it is very important to me that you pass the bill restricting guns from city parks and offices. Everyone deserves to feel safe in city parks, at public meetings, and at their workplaces. Please think of the children of Richmond when you pass this bill.

Sincerely,

Laura Swanson
Ward 1 resident

From: [Amy Myers](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Gun Safety Ordinance
Date: Monday, September 7, 2020 4:52:11 PM

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Mayor Stoney and distinguished city council members,

The Navy brought my family to Virginia Beach fifteen years ago and it is now our home. My personal experience has led me to believe that anyone who serves on city council does so to better their city. My brother, God rest his soul, served on his city council for more than a decade, finally serving as mayor for several years. I used to watch his meetings online and saw up close how demanding it could be. He, like all of you, had a full-time job and a family, but felt compelled to do his part to better his community. So, thank you for your service.

I joined Moms Demand after the Parkland shooting. The strength of those young adults inspired me to get involved, even though I am one of the lucky few Americans who have never been personally affected by gun violence. Yet

I feel compelled to write to you because the Second Amendment does not trump the First Amendment. I was in Richmond for the special session in the summer of 2019, where we were surrounded by men in camouflage, carrying weapons. It was totally unnerving. Why should they be able to shut me out of exercising my 1st amendment right to free speech by intimidating me?

So, I personally knocked hundreds of doors to help elect a gun sense majority in our Virginia legislature that following November! For many voters in Virginia Beach, gun safety was the ONLY issue affecting their vote. Most Virginians were elated when the Legislature finally passed common sense gun safety laws. But not everyone was thrilled.

The Second Amendment Sanctuary City movement began right after that to counter the will of the voters. On January 6, Virginia Beach city council called a special session to vote to make our city a Second Amendment Constitutional City and I and many others attended that meeting. Armed militia members from across Virginia showed up to our meeting to fill the chamber and stop us from speaking. Again, I felt very threatened.

We were excited to return to Richmond on January 20, 2020 to meet with our newly elected members and open the session. Unfortunately, we were unable to do so because armed militias from across the country descended on Richmond to intimidate and incite violence. As a group, Moms Demand chose not to assemble in Richmond that day for our safety. So, these armed men did effectively prevent me and thousands of others from exercising their right to peaceably assemble.

Please pass this local gun safety ordinance to prohibit firearms from any public road or walkway

being used by, or adjacent to, an event that requires a city permit.

Thank you for your time,

Amy Myers

From: [Erin Corbett](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Testimony for No. 2020-184
Date: Monday, September 7, 2020 6:59:24 PM

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Dear Candice D. Reid, City Clerk,

Please find my testimony below in regard to ordinance No. 2020-184:

Dear City Council Members,

I am providing this testimony in an effort to urge you to vote **yes** and pass the local ordinance, No. 2020-184.

I understand and appreciate the Constitutional right to bear arms. I was raised in a military family in which firearms were acknowledged for the freedoms they have provided our country. But I cannot entertain the idea that weapons belong in or near the same spaces in which I meet my legislators, or where I enjoy events like city festivals, parades, or concerts.

I remember feeling unsafe because of guns being displayed in government buildings at Virginia Beach's city council meeting in December 2019. I attended the meeting in an effort to convey support for both gun violence prevention and the newly elected gun sense majority of the Virginia General Assembly. I was expecting a passionate but civil cohort of citizens prepared to discuss the proposed concept of a "Second Amendment Sanctuary City." What I instead found was a crowd of overzealous and armed advocates, branded with orange "Guns Save Lives" stickers, carrying signs reading "Red Flag Laws Kill."

What made this particular encounter more painful is that it occurred within the same municipal building campus in which a gunman killed 12 individuals earlier that year, claiming lives of people I know and traumatizing the lives of my friends who were lucky enough to survive.

We often talk of self defense and when it is appropriate and when it is not. It is an undoubtedly ambiguous and subjective term. But the consistently defining component of self defense is a sentiment of feeling unsafe, feeling threatened, and feeling that harm is imminent.

I remember feeling all of these that night. I was wearing a black coat as I entered the chambers and presumably perceived to be unbiased. Seats were offered to me freely and readily. But when I took off my coat to reveal a red Moms Demand Action shirt, this generosity came to an abrupt halt. As I was the only visible Moms member in the room, I

suddenly bore the attention of dozens of furious gun advocates, immediately and intentionally verbally attacking me. I felt unsafe. I felt threatened. I felt that harm was imminent.

Shortly after this, I left the chambers, concerned for my own safety. On leaving the room, I was met with hundreds of gun extremists, crowded throughout the building lobby and hundreds more crowded outside on the building's steps, sidewalk and street.

Outnumbered and overwhelmed, I navigated the throng of furious and armed men and women who screamed at me slurs and insults while I attempted to locate friendlier faces. I felt that at any moment, a gun could be drawn on me. I feared that as an outlier, violence was imminent, because -- based on what the hundreds were telling me -- I did not belong. I learned that evening that I could be made to feel expendable for holding a different opinion. And that difference of opinion could have easily resulted in violence. By definition, this is terrorism.

We have laws that prohibit drunk driving because we understand that driving while impaired is dangerous. We need to have laws that prohibit guns in spaces that are prime for misuse for precisely the same reason.

The work of any city council is to ensure the safety and wellbeing of its citizens. Additionally, the work of the Richmond city council is to do so while also acting as a leader in how city councils across the state can govern their communities through such challenges. I urge the Richmond city council to pass this ordinance and prohibit firearms from these public spaces to ensure that we maintain safety and wellbeing of our friends, families, neighbors and peers.

Thank you,
Erin Corbett
Moms Demand Action Member

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Erin Corbett



From: [Melanie Cornelisse](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Local Ordinance 2020-184 Urgent
Date: Monday, September 7, 2020 8:58:21 PM
Attachments: [MOM Richmond address 9_20.pdf](#)

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September 1, 2020

Dear Richmond City Council and Mayor Stoney,

As the mom of two kids, a gun violence survivor, Virginia resident and an advocate with Moms Demand Action, I strongly urge the Richmond City Council to vote YES on local ordinance No. 2020-184, a gun safety ordinance prohibiting firearms from any public road or walkway being used by or adjacent to, and event that requires a city permit. In doing so, you will be creating a safer, less threatening environment for citizens and our families where we can feel free to assemble, to speak publicly, and to demonstrate peacefully, without the fear and threat of gun violence.

As any active volunteer member of Virginia Moms Demand Action or other gun violence prevention groups knows, the extremist gun lobby has long been using their ability to open carry weapons of war to threaten and intimidate our groups and to discourage our activism. I want to show a few photos to make the point that this group has morphed in the last year from a group of mostly white men with long guns who were threatening mostly unarmed women in GVP (gun violence prevention) groups to a group allied with white supremacists threatening peaceful protestors at Black Lives Matter marches and rallies (which are very often attended by GVP groups). Make no mistake: the agenda of gun rights groups is a deeply racist and misogynist one. The evidence can be seen in the photos and documented by the extraordinary number of public displays. There is a great amount of overlap between the white supremacy groups and the extremist gun lobby and this can be seen by the photos of men wearing VCDL (Virginia Civil Defence League) and Three Percenters gear who are flashing white supremacy signs and the Boogaloo Bois¹, who wear Hawaiian shirts to identify themselves as a racist group that eagerly anticipates a race war with guns- one in which they intend to eliminate people of color.² These extremist gun rights groups must be acknowledged as the terrorists they are and we need better laws to protect our citizens against their armed intimidation and threats. As citizens of Virginia, our First Amendment rights to speak publicly and to assemble should be protected by our governments - local, state and federal.

1

<https://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2020/07/american-boogaloo-meme-or-terrorist-movement/613843/>

² <https://www.adl.org/education/references/hate-symbols/okay-hand-gesture>,



About a month after the Virginia Beach mass shooting (May 31, 2020)³, only a little over a year ago now, the General Assembly was called by our Governor Northam to a Special Session to address gun violence in Virginia. Thousands of Moms Demand Action and other gun violence prevention volunteer advocates gathered in Richmond and stood in line waiting to speak with their legislators in order to urge them to make laws to save lives and prevent gun violence. In many ways, our desire for legislative action had been revived by the violence we had seen less than a month prior in Virginia Beach when an employee was allowed to bring a gun with a silencer to work in a city building and killed twelve city employees and contractors on Memorial

³ <https://www.cnn.com/2019/06/02/us/virginia-beach-shooting-sunday/index.html>

Day, 2019. I was standing with the group from Hampton Roads and know personally some of the survivors from that Virginia Beach mass shooting. As you can see in the photos below, as our MOMS leaders and survivors spoke with a news team, these two gun rights extremists, wearing Three Percenter and VCDL gear and holding long guns, pushed their way behind our volunteers and shoved their cell phones in the faces of these unarmed women in order to record any personal information they could get on their phones. As you can see from the photos that show the backs of these extremists, the one on the right is holding a long gun in his right hand that he attempts to conceal. I wish I could tell you that this was the only incident that happened that day, but the truth is that I and others were yelled at, insulted and physically manhandled and pushed around by these extremists who were still allowed at that time to come into our legislator's building with their guns.



There were so many gun rights extremists who came, armed with long guns and handguns, in order to intimidate gun violence survivors and GVP groups who came to speak with our legislators. The man in the picture on the left is flashing a white supremacy sign as he wears a Three Percenter hat and a VCDL sticker.⁴ These men wore camo and attempted to give the impression they had the authority of the military to “police” us. Several times that day, members of this group let us know we should be “thanking them for keeping us safe.” By attempting to impersonate the military or law enforcement officers, they were breaking the law, as explained later by Attorney General Mark Herring.⁵

⁴ <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/12/15/us/ok-sign-white-power.html>,
[https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/ok-sign-white-power-supremacy-alt-right-4chan-trolli ng-hoax-a9249846.html](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/ok-sign-white-power-supremacy-alt-right-4chan-trolli-ng-hoax-a9249846.html)

⁵ <https://www.dailypress.com/government/local/dp-nws-herring-militia-20190816-story.html>

I am sure I do not need to remind the Richmond City Council of the assault of these extremist gun rights groups on local governments as they pushed their Lawless City Resolutions this winter or the thwarted terrorist plot planned for Richmond during their hijacking of what should have been a memorial to Martin Luther King, Jr. on January 20. And now, as Richmond and other cities around Virginia plan marches and demonstrations for Black Lives Matter, these armed terrorists continue to show up with their weapons of war intending to threaten and intimidate and to promote their racist, “guns everywhere” agenda. The following photos have been collected from MOMS all over VA and the captions below will help explain the context. In each example, you will see how these armed gun rights terrorists showed up to threaten and intimidate people at Black Lives Matter marches and rallies.



Gun rights extremists (One in a Boogaloo shirt) assemble in Market Square, Alexandria VA on June 13, 2020.



June 7, 2020. Gun rights extremists gather with long guns outside a gun store to watch the Black Lives Matter march in Purcellville.



Triune Shooting Sports

9 hrs · 🌐



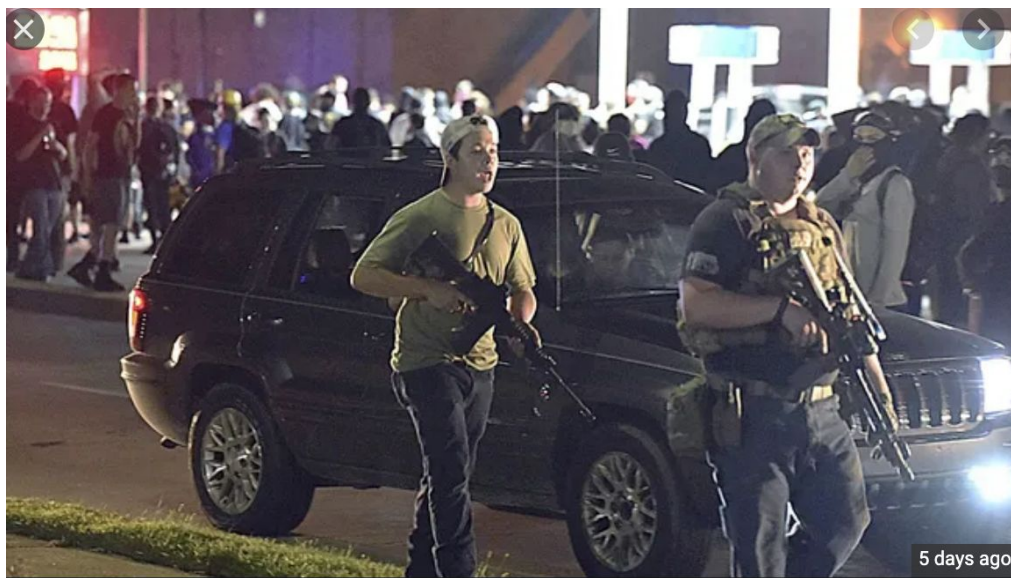
Also our other 2 eyes on the roof! Thank ya'll for your help!



This picture of two snipers in Boogaloo shirts with long guns is part of the advertising campaign by Triune Shooting Sports in Warrenton, VA. Their roof

has a video of a popular ice cream place that was the scheduled endpoint for the Black Lives Matter march that occurred the day these photos were taken (May 31, 2020). These two snipers are being thanked by the gun store for being the “eyes and ears on the roof” - as if they were a military force fighting an enemy instead of being what they actually are - domestic terrorists with guns targeting unarmed, civilians marching in a Black Lives Matter demonstration.

As the Atlantic article explains, Rutgers University “contagion and ideology report” for law enforcement agencies examined the online network of the Boogaloo Bois and determined this is a terrorist group that requires greater law enforcement and surveillance.⁶ Here in Virginia, our extraordinarily lax gun laws have offered these kinds of extreme gun rights groups a safe haven to show up to marches and peaceful demonstrations armed with long guns and weapons of war in order to threaten and intimidate unarmed and peaceful protestors. Richmond City Council and Mayor Stoney, please pass the gun ban on Richmond public property to send a clear message that domestic terrorism is unacceptable here. Peaceful, unarmed and law abiding citizens of Virginia deserve safe spaces free of the threat of gun violence to gather, speak and to petition our government for an end to this epidemic of gun violence that grows worse with each day. Vote YES to local ordinance 2020-84 and help prevent the kind of terrorism and bloodshed caused by armed extremist groups in Wisconsin from happening here in Virginia.



Respectfully,
Melanie Cornelisse

From: [Lynn Murphy](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: ORD. 2020-184
Date: Tuesday, September 8, 2020 8:00:27 AM

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I support banning guns at or near protests in Richmond. This is great!! Please pass it!!

Thanks.

Lynn Murphy



From: [Coleen Butler Rodriguez](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Fwd: Ord.2020-184
Date: Tuesday, September 8, 2020 8:11:52 AM

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I am in support of Ordinance 2020-184 and urge our city council person, Kim Gray to vote in favor of it.

Coleen Butler Rodriguez

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Coleen Butler Rodriguez,

[Redacted]



[Redacted]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]; [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Ordinance 2020-184
Date: Tuesday, September 8, 2020 8:23:38 AM

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I am writing in support of Ordinance 2020-184, and request that Councilwoman gray vote YES on this ordinance.
Thank you,
Spencer Broadbent

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Gray, Kimberly B. - City Council; City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Ordinance 2020-184
Date: Tuesday, September 8, 2020 8:29:59 AM

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I am writing in support of Ordinance 2020-184, and request that Councilwoman gray vote YES on this ordinance.

Thank you,
Spencer Broadbent

From: [Lucretia McCulley](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Please ban guns at public protests
Date: Tuesday, September 8, 2020 8:32:11 AM

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I am very much in favor of public protests and marches, but I also strongly support ORD 2020-184, the ordinance to ban guns at or adjacent to protests. Without this ordinance, we will have more tragic deaths in our community.

Thank you,
Lucretia McCulley
Richmond, VA
23227

From: [Christy Lantz](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office; Gray, Kimberly B. - City Council](#)
Subject: Re: Support 2020-184
Date: Tuesday, September 8, 2020 8:48:40 AM

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On Tue, Sep 8, 2020 at 8:44 AM Christy Lantz [REDACTED] wrote:

Thank you in advance for you vote in favor of city ordinance 2020-184

Christy Lantz
[REDACTED]

From: [Peter Henry](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: support for ORD. 2020-184,
Date: Tuesday, September 8, 2020 8:51:16 AM

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Dear City Clerk:

Just a quick note of support for [ORD. 2020-184](#).

Thank you!

Peter Henry



From: [Dara Friedberg](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: ORD 2020-184
Date: Tuesday, September 8, 2020 8:57:25 AM

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I am a resident of the 1st District and am in support of banning guns at or adjacent to protests.
Dara

From: [Susan Snyder](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: [REDACTED]
Date: Tuesday, September 8, 2020 8:58:24 AM

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To all concerned,

My husband and I live on Monument Avenue and have been loving through all this havoc for way too long. Please vote in favor of Ordinance 2020-184 banning guns at permitted events. Make our city streets and neighborhoods safe again!!!

Thank you for considering this,

Jim Buzzard and Susan Snyder

From: [Margaret Mackinnon](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Support for new gun rules
Date: Tuesday, September 8, 2020 8:58:36 AM

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I am urging support for the new rules that would limit guns being brought to public protests and gatherings. This would definitely increase public safety and allow all to freely and safely express their voices.

Thank you,

Margaret Mackinnon



From: [REDACTED]
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Please adopt Ordinance 2020-184
Date: Tuesday, September 8, 2020 9:01:10 AM

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Mayor Stoney, Richmond City Council, September 8, 2020

I am writing today to urge you to adopt the local ordinance No. 2020-184. As the mother of a young woman living in Richmond and having had experience with advocacy for gun safety legislation this is a matter of extreme importance to me.

The passing of this ordinance not only affects the citizens of Richmond, my daughter and friends included, but also those of us who visit the city as visitors, tourists and mostly as engaged taxpayers seeking to speak with our legislators.

For the past few years, I have been a volunteer member of Moms Demand Action in Hampton Roads and have visited Richmond on occasion and the Pocahontas Building to call on my duly elected officials to advocate on behalf of gun safety laws. At each I have had the unpleasant experience of having gun carrying, orange sticker wearing gun extremists do their best to intimidate me and my fellow MOMS as we wait with just our notes and bags to enter the building, or as we are walking between meetings for discussion with our representatives. We are there, peacefully assembled and organized to speak with our legislators. The derisive comments, hostile behavior and pointed crowding as we wait to be allowed our time is unacceptable when those persons openly hold their weapon in view, meant clearly to intimidate. We are no physical threat. We come with our voices, our words and pleas for support for gun safety in our communities. These intimidation tactics being used are not just in your city but occurred on occasion where council chambers were filled to overflowing with gun extremists in other Virginia cities, most of whom were not actually residents. I urge you to pass this important ordinance to set an example for all of our Commonwealth. We deserve to exercise our First Amendment rights without fear of intimidation or harm and it is up to legislators to make that clear. I want to attend city council meetings, engage with my community and feel secure that my family does not have to fear the danger of weapons in a public park, recreation center, public event or assembly. This is our right: freedom from fear and intimidation.

Thank you for your consideration,
Patricia Gadzinski

From: [Janice Hall Nuckolls](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Cc: [Gray, Kimberly B. - City Council](#); [REDACTED]
Subject: Ordinance 2020-184
Date: Tuesday, September 8, 2020 9:09:20 AM

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My husband and I fully support proposed ordinance 2020-184 to ban firearms at permitted events.

Sincerely,
Janice Nuckolls
Steve Nuckolls

Janice Hall Nuckolls



From: [cindy wofford](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#); [Stoney, Levar M. - Mayor](#); [Saunders, Lincoln - Mayor's Office](#)
Cc: [Gray, Kimberly B. - City Council](#); [Robertson, Ellen F. - City Council](#); [Trammell, Reva M. - City Council](#); [Hilbert, Chris A. - City Council](#); [Jones, Michael J. - City Council](#); [Larson, Kristen N. - City Council](#); [Newbille, Cynthia I. - City Council](#); [Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office](#); [Addison, Andreas D. - City Council](#)
Subject: gun ordinance 2020-184
Date: Tuesday, September 8, 2020 9:11:34 AM

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I urge all city council members to vote in support of Ordinance 2020-184 at today's council meeting.

Thank you for all of your efforts attempting to make Richmond a safer place for ALL citizens.

Cindy Wofford

From:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[City Clerk's Office](#)

Date:

Tuesday, September 8, 2020 9:17:14 AM

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I support the Ordinance to ban guns adjacent to and/or at protest gatherings. Ordinance 2020-184.

Nancy Costello
City of Richmond, Va

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: NO guns a protests!
Date: Tuesday, September 8, 2020 9:17:41 AM

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I support ORD 2020 -184

Thanks,
Matt
City of Richmond resident

From: [Alice Twining](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: To the City Council
Date: Tuesday, September 8, 2020 9:26:44 AM

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Dear City Council Members:

I am a licensed Clinical and Forensic Psychologist. I drove to Richmond to attend the Special General Assembly Session in July, 2019 to express my opinion in favor of Gun Sense Legislation to Delegates and Senators as well as the Governor.

To be brief, I was appalled about the presence of hundreds of opponents to Gun Sense Legislation. They did not keep to themselves. They were heavily armed, with communication devices, positioned very close to our people like myself. To say the least, they were intimidating and threatening. They were dressed in mock uniforms, and some were carrying three guns - pistols and long guns. Some of their shirts had intimidating slogans like "F...k you..." that were aimed at us.

At one point, a mother whose son was killed by gun violence was being interviewed by a tv station. Members of this armed group tried to get in the video, pushing up against the survivor (which is assault) and were blocked by a small group of women who surrounded the speaker. I watched this happen from close by, and I saw fear on the faces of the mothers, and I could tell that they were being seriously intimidated. Some of our group were students in high school, and some mothers had young children in strollers. Some were crying after this incident.

This day will be remembered as a dangerous confrontation where police stood by and did not help us. The trauma induced by this day would be long-lasting for some, and sparked the Post-Traumatic Stress Response that they were living with due to prior traumas.

As a psychologist, the concept of safety is important to people who are expressing their opinions about Gun Safety. I think that the City of Richmond failed us that day.

I strongly urge the City Council to pass the Local Control Ordinance to stop these heavily armed people from threatening peaceful people who want to express their First Amendment rights to the General Assembly.

Sincerely,
Alice Twining, LCP



From: [Colleen Garrison](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Comment for City County 9.9.20 at 5PM
Date: Tuesday, September 8, 2020 9:34:42 AM

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Greetings – I would like to submit the following comment for tonight’s City Council meeting:

“As a Richmonder who’s witnessed several pro-gun rallies in our capital, I find Ordinance 2020-184 to be of ill and questionable timing. While I believe this is something that should have been addressed ages ago, we have black and brown folk expressing their gun rights + wanting to feel protected during a pivotal point in our history. If it was ok for all those white men to stomp around our home just this year (in February), how can you NOW put this ordinance through? I believe this is beyond too little and too late to even address the issue at hand. We all know that those armed protestors of color/supporting BLM and racial equity will be targeted over those such as the Boolgaloo farce of a group. Thus, I urge you to NOT support this ordinance. Protect your black and brown constituents. Thank you, a new second rights amendment supporter. Colleen”

Thank you!

From: [bpfox](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Guns
Date: Tuesday, September 8, 2020 9:43:24 AM

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Guns must be banned near protests! It can be a volatility situation and guns only exacerbate the situation.

Brandon Fox

From: [RVA Moms Demand Action](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Local Control Ordinance
Date: Tuesday, September 8, 2020 9:59:51 AM

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To the members of Richmond City Council,

I am a mother of two young children and a volunteer with Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America. I am writing to urge you to pass the ordinance to prohibit firearms at and near events that require city permits. This is good policy and sends a strong statement about what our community values.

Families shouldn't have to worry about the presence of a firearm when they take their children to events. People shouldn't have to worry about facing armed extremists when they come to Richmond to attend legislative hearings. As the state capital, Richmond has the responsibility of ensuring every Virginian has a safe place to meet lawmakers. Armed intimidation has no place in Virginia, especially in the capital city. We know what happens when armed militia groups come to Richmond. People are silenced, just like we saw on January 20th.

This decision impacts everyone in the Commonwealth, and passing this ordinance would help keep Virginians safer.

Thank you,
Courtney Champion

From: [Jim Wilson](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Subject: Vote No on Ord. No. 2020-184
Date: Tuesday, September 8, 2020 9:59:53 AM

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As a resident of Richmond, I write to you to ask that you vote no on the Mayor's proposed expansion of local gun in Richmond; ordinance number 2020-184. I feel the Mayor is again taking advantage of the violence, vandalism and unrest to pass through a purely political expansion of gun control that severely impacts the law abiding citizens of Richmond and all visitors to the city. As I watched the discussions by council members during meeting on August 20, I was dismayed as the entire focus became about the "protest" activities, and all gun owners were portrayed as "intimidators of free speech". I am a gun owner that is not at these protests and neither are any of the many other gun owners I know. Below are some of the many reasons I as you to reject this ordinance.

1. This ordinance does not simply ban firearms. It also bans ammunition and parts. These items have nothing to do with safety and are not vehicles for intimidation. This is simply an attempt to inconvenience the law abiding.
2. The vague wording of "events that should be permitted".
3. The vague use of "adjacent" and how that will be defined and enforced.
4. No exemption for concealed handgun permit holder as "concealed" guns don't intimidate.

Thanks

James Wilson

From: [Ann Ritter](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office; Gray, Kimberly B. - City Council](#)
Subject: City Ordinance 2020-184
Date: Tuesday, September 8, 2020 10:07:15 AM

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Good morning.

I have lived in the City of Richmond since 2007. The gun violence has escalated in those years. With the current atmosphere surrounding the monuments, I would hope that you would vote in favor of the ordinance to ban firearms at any event that requires a permit. I am a gun owner and believe that the Constitution should be upheld. However, guns should not be permitted at a large event where people could get hurt. This would include those that are legally permitted. This was quite an issue during the riots in the Fan area over the past few months. Having this ordinance would have allowed the police to do their job. That is from one perspective.

I do not know how this would work when those trying to support their 2nd amendments rights could not bring their handguns.

Thank you for considering this.

Ann

From: [Susan F. Kaufman](#)
To: [City Clerk's Office](#)
Cc: [Sibel Gutierrez](#)
Subject: Corrections Re: Richmond City Council Vote on Local Gun Safety Ordinance
Date: Tuesday, September 8, 2020 10:17:20 AM

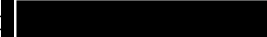
CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

My apologies!

The shelter is a tornado shelter, not a Hurricane shelter. There is also a typographical error.

Best wishes,
Susan

Susan F Kaufman


On Sep 8, 2020, at 9:54 AM, Susan F. Kaufman < > wrote:

Dear Mayor Stoney and Members of Richmond City Council,

Thank you all for allowing me to address the issue of Local Gun Safety Ordinance for Richmond. My hope today is to explain why I believe guns do not belong in Virginia Schools.

First, let me introduce myself. My name is Susan Kaufman. I am a member of Moms Demand Action, a citizen of the Commonwealth of Virginia and the granddaughter of a Gun Violence Victim. Like my fellow member, Lillian Cooper, I faced armed extremists from across the country in Virginia Beach on January 20th of this year. My father was 6 years old and my uncles were 8 and 10 who their father was killed by his friends with his own gun. My maternal grandfather was a farmer in Smyth County were my uncle still watches the cattle from his porch. They knew guns as tools; whether to hunt, protect livestock or end an animal's suffering, tools were always treated with respect and care. My sister and her husband live on the famous Route 66 in Oklahoma 45 minutes from law enforcement. Mountain lions can be a regular obstacle in taking out the trash or getting to the hurricane shelter in the front yard. I am not anti-gun. Far from it. My family depends on tools such as guns to stay safe.

Second, there is a difference between guns as tools and the romantic mythology around guns. The six-foot tall farmers in my family have removed guns from the hands of people who demonstrated a lack of respect for the destructive power in mishandling a gun. They never kept tools of war on a farm. Owning military-style weapons has become a fashion for those who listen to fear-based rhetoric, even though US communities are primarily safe.

Third, teachers have too much to do already. Parents' work hours mean that they depend on teachers to raise their children to be good citizens, teach them, follow a slew of politically motivated directives the may or may not have merit or efficacy in improving education. Arming anyone in schools is flat out crazy. The amount of time to become proficient, i.e. sniper training, means dedicated payroll that school systems didn't have before the COVID-19 Crisis. School Borads are already scrambling to get the 21st century technology that many students' didn't have orchestrated and lesson plans, teaching software & training. Yikes!

Fourth, law enforcement do not want to go into an active shooter situation in a school with the added burden of figuring out who the "friendlies" are AND neutralize the threat to children, teachers and staff. Please do not make a difficult job nearly impossible to get right.

Mayor Stoney and Members of the Richmond City Council, I emphatically urge you to reject any and all measures that allow guns on school property unless handled by the APPROPRIATE authorities.

Best Wishes,
Susan

Susan F. Kaufman
