



Legislation Text

File #: 220059, **Version:** 0

Recognizing February 1-7, 2022, as National Gun Violence Survivor Week, in honor of survivors of gun violence and the lifelong burdens they carry.

WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, over 45,000 Americans are killed in acts of gun violence and tens of thousands more are victims of non-fatal shootings. By early February, more Americans are killed with guns than are killed in our peer countries in an entire calendar year; and

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 a loved one wounded or killed; and

WHEREAS, In 2021, Philadelphia had one of its deadliest years of gun violence, seeing 562 homicides. In Pennsylvania, 1,574 people die by guns on average in a year. Each death has a ripple effect, impacting entire families and communities; and

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; and

WHEREAS, The impact of gun violence is seen disproportionately across communities of color. In Pennsylvania, Black people are 21 times more likely than white people to die by gun homicide, compared to 10 times nationwide. Nationwide, 68 percent of Black and Latino Americans or someone they care for has experienced gun violence in their lifetime, demonstrating the impact and devastation gun violence has in communities across America; and

WHEREAS, Although the City of Philadelphia is pre-empted by state law from most types of firearm regulation, the City has taken bold action over the last year to address the gun violence crisis, allocating tens of millions of dollars in new funds for gun violence prevention, enacting a landmark ghost guns regulation, and establishing the Office of the Victim Advocate; and

WHEREAS, By observing National Gun Violence Survivors Week, communities across America will raise awareness about gun violence and honor the lives stolen or irreversibly damaged by gun violence; and

WHEREAS, We renew our commitment to reduce gun violence and pledge to do all we can to keep Philadelphia safe; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, That it hereby recognizes February 1-7, 2022, as National Gun Violence Survivor Week, in honor of survivors of gun violence and the lifelong burdens they carry.