

Dear Mayor Chirico,

I have read the proposed draft of the city's ordinance adding "CHAPTER 19 (REGULATION OF THE COMMERCIAL SALE OF ASSAULT WEAPONS AND LARGE-CAPACITY MAGAZINES) OF TITLE 3 (BUSINESS AND LICENSE REGULATIONS) OF THE NAPERVILLE MUNICIPAL CODE" and listened to the Robert Bevis' speech to the City Council.

I oppose the proposed ordinance for many reasons, which I will explain below. However, for the sake of transparency, I am not an owner of an Armalite style rifle (I am sure you realize AR stands for Armalite [the original manufacturer of this style rifle] and not "assault rifle") or any firearm on the proposed list, but I am pro second amendment. I originally moved here with my wife in 1985. We moved away twice for my work, but have always returned.

Any shooting of innocent people is horrific and morally sick. I get nauseated every time I read or hear about an innocent child being injured or killed in Chicago by a drive-by shooting or a stray bullet. A bullet most likely fired from a handgun. How do politicians continue to support the lenient prosecution of the perpetrators creating weekly chaos? Not just random shootings, but smash and grabs, and carjackings. Two of my friend's daughters have been carjacked in Chicago by teenage boys at gunpoint in the past 12 months.

My perception is the Mayor and the City Council have a fiduciary responsibility to the residents of Naperville to make and keep our city a safe place to live and raise a family. The 2021 Crime Statistics published by Police Chief Arres [2021 crime statistics for web 2.16.2022.pdf \(naperville.il.us\)](https://www.naperville.il.us/2021-crime-statistics-for-web-2-16-2022.pdf) shows a good trend. Major crimes are down 33%. Both the Police Force and yourself should be proud of the statistics. The 148 firearms recovered was a surprise and a big jump from prior years. It would be interesting to get the breakdown between handguns and long guns for the years shown.

Passing this ordinance, in my perception by looking at the facts, would have no positive impact on the safety of Naperville residents. If nothing else, it puts Naperville in the news and has the possibility of emboldening criminals to travel here. With such a positive Crime Statistics report, why risk reversing the trend? Criminals tend to be opportunists, so why provide an opportunity?

Robert Bevis, who I have transacted within his store but never formally met, gave an informative and on-point speech. The positive impact his business has on Naperville and the surrounding communities if not the State of Illinois is impressive. The list of law enforcement agencies they serve/service is impressive (FBI and ATF as well as your own). I have personally shopped at Law Weapons, Range USA, Bass Pro Shops, Range 355, Mega Sports, and JR Shooting Sports. I have also used Law Weapons' gunsmithing services and they are the best in the area. My interaction with Law Weapons has been nothing but professional. Losing them or any other business that actually trains Naperville residents in gun safety and self-defense is counter to improving Naperville's safety for its residents.

The number of ghost guns serialized by Law Weapons is something the City Council and yourself should embrace and celebrate.

Forcing law-abiding residents of Naperville to drive a mile or two to Range 355, Bass Pro Shop, JR Shooting, Mega Sports, or any of the other licensed firearm retailers in the area to legally purchase a firearm banned in the proposed ordinance list does absolutely nothing to promote safety in Naperville.

The draft of the ordinance I read with the narrative list of mass shootings did not present well. It came off as biased and fear-mongering. Almost insulting the intelligence of the reader. It reminded me of the sound bites you hear on so many topics with today's media. No meaningful transparent facts, just sound bites to match a narrative. Yes, the shootings listed were horrible, but there have been so many more shootings that were not included that were executed by firearms not matching the ordinance's definition of "assault weapon", mainly handguns. It stands to reason the majority of mass shootings and/or shootings of any type would be executed by a handgun since they are more widely owned/manufactured than rifles. Instead of just reacting to the media's narrative and sound bites, let's review some facts.

I went to the FBI's site [Active Shooter Incidents in the United States in 2021 — FBI](#) which listed the 61 mass shootings in their database for 2021. It is interesting to note:

- 70% (43) of the shootings were with a handgun only
- 8% (5) of the shootings were with a rifle only
- 10% (6) of the shootings were with a handgun and rifle combination
- 8% (5) of the shootings the weapon type was not listed, but most likely would have been a handgun making the 70% closer to 78%
- 3% (2) of the shootings were with shotguns
- 7% (4) of the shooters were killed by armed civilians, saving an untold number of lives
- Mass shootings were stable at 30-31 in 2017-2019 and then started to rise significantly in 2020 (40) and 2021 (61), which are 33% and 54% increases respectively

I also went to the United States Concealed Carry Association ("USCCA") site [Mass Shootings Facts and Fiction | Gun Facts and Fiction | USCCA \(usconcealedcarry.com\)](#) to see how they look at mass shooting facts. Realizing this is published by a pro-second amendment group it does correlate with the FBI's list and they do identify their sources. It indicates:

- Mass shootings only account for .23% of all gun-related deaths
- Mass shootings with a rifle only account for 13% of all mass shootings over the past 21 years

I went to the Sandy Hook Promise website [16 Facts About Gun Violence And School Shootings — Sandy Hook Promise](#). It was interesting to see their list of 16 gun violence and school shooting facts never once mentioned the type of weapon used. Perhaps the facts do not match the narrative?

Given the above, is the City Council focused on the correct area? I think not.

I would be willing to pay higher real estate taxes to increase the police force and criminal prosecutions than pay for the defense of the probable lawsuit this ordinance will create. Supporting and passing this ordinance will most likely cost the residents of Naperville tax dollars for its defense in court in addition to reducing the safety of the residents. Any litigation on this ordinance would be time-consuming, lengthy, and expensive. My perception is this ordinance is completely contrary to the fiduciary obligation the City Council members and yourself.

I am very close to a teacher at one of Naperville's high schools. Last school year he had a student transfer in from inner Chicago. The student told him he did not feel safe in school here because there were not enough controls on the ingress/egress points of the building. It is interesting that the school shootings we have heard about over the years across the United States have not occurred at inner-city high crime area schools, but in suburban schools with less security. Perhaps a focus on school safety procedures, ingress/egress controls, and police officers on site would be a better use of the City Council's time and residents' tax dollars.

An ordinance on the safety of our children in schools is what would be impactful.

I ask you to keep the city safe and the kids safe in this time of higher crime in the greater Chicago metropolitan area as well as across the nation. Increase the police force and criminal prosecutions and focus on the schools. Don't follow the narrative of the sound bites on the news for a political stance that, in reality, hurts the businesses that help keep Naperville safe. Great leaders make tough decisions, which are not necessarily supported by today's media.

Thank you for your service to Naperville.

Sincerely, XXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXX