

**From:** [LuAnn Salovich](#)  
**To:** [\\*CI-StPaul\\_Contact-Council](#)  
**Subject:** Ordinance 23-22  
**Date:** Monday, April 24, 2023 7:16:31 PM

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Mr. Mayor and Council Members:

As a law abiding citizen of St Paul, I am emailing you in opposition to Ordinance 23-22, your defenseless storage mandate, as proposed.

Please, reconsider this ordinance and refrain from infringing upon the rights of law abiding, responsible gun owners.

Thank you,

Ms LuAnn Salovich  
1627 Carl Street  
Lauderdale MN 55108  
[lmsalovich@gmail.com](mailto:lmsalovich@gmail.com)  
612-723-3435

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [James Benzie](#)  
**To:** [\\*CI-StPaul\\_Contact-Council](#)  
**Subject:** Support for ORD 23-22  
**Date:** Monday, April 24, 2023 10:15:23 PM  
**Attachments:** [St. Paul Ordinance 23-22 Testimony.docx](#)

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To whom it may concern,

Please see attached written testimony in support of ORD 23-22 for the Saint Paul City Council meeting on 04/26/2023.

Take care,  
Dr. James Benzie  
St. Paul Resident - Ward 4

April 24, 2023

IN SUPPORT OF ORD 23-22

Dear Saint Paul City Council,

As a Saint Paul resident, Family Physician, and responsible firearm owner (hunter), I am writing in support of the amendment to the existing city code ordinance that specifically addresses the discharge of a firearm, File # ORD 23-22. With the ever-increasing occurrences of gun violence in our communities, it is clear that steps need to be taken to reduce and address this significant problem. Gun violence in all of its forms needs to be addressed to help keep all Saint Paul residents and Minnesotans safe from things like suicide, domestic violence, accidental shootings, and violent crimes. As an avid outdoorsman, who learned the ways of hunting, fishing, and trapping from my grandpas, I understand and support the right of Minnesotans to safe gun ownership and use of firearms for activities like hunting or recreational shooting. As a Family Physician, who educates, encourages, and empowers prevention on a daily basis, I also support the need to reinforce responsible gun ownership practices through safe gun storage, securing ammunition, and including gun lock devices which can reduce and prevent the tragedies associated with the discharge of firearms when left unsecured.

Thank you for the work you do and are doing to keep the citizens of Saint Paul and Minnesota safe.

Take care,

Dr. James Benzie

Ward 4

**From:** [Emily Benzie](#)  
**To:** [\\*CI-StPaul\\_Contact-Council](#)  
**Cc:** [#CI-StPaul\\_Ward4](#)  
**Subject:** Support for ORD 23-22  
**Date:** Monday, April 24, 2023 9:29:48 PM  
**Attachments:** [Support for St. Paul ORD 23-22 .pdf](#)

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To Whom it May Concern:

Please find attached my written testimony in support of ORD 23-22 for the City Council meeting on April 26, 2023.

Thank you,  
Emily Benzie, MD

Saint Paul City Council  
Council President: Amy Brendmoen

Wednesday April 26, 2023 at 3:30 PM  
Saint Paul City Hall

## **IN SUPPORT**

### **ORD 23-22 - Amending Chapter 225 of the Legislative Code relating to weapons**

My name is Dr. Emily Benzie. I grew up in Macalester-Groveland and now live in Merriam Park. I am a proud graduate of St. Paul Public Schools, practicing family physician, member of the Minnesota Firearm Safety and Suicide Prevention Coalition, volunteer with Moms Demand Action, and the aunt of 4 dearly loved children who are students in St. Paul Public Schools.

I'd like to start by thanking Councilmember Noecker for leading the work on this amendment, Councilmembers Prince and Yang and Mayor Carter for their support, their staff who were instrumental in getting the work done, and the members of the St. Paul Police Department and City Attorney's office who contributed their time and expertise to drafting this amendment.

I strongly support Ordinance 23-22, which broadens the definition of "acts deemed attempt to discharge a firearm" to include the unsecure storage of an unattended firearm. Secure firearm storage plays a vital role in decreasing the discharge of firearms, and therefore gun violence, in our city. Storing firearms securely protects children and adults from unintentional shootings, lowers the risk of firearm suicide, and decreases the risk of a firearm being stolen from its owner's home or vehicle and later being used in a violent crime. If a firearm owner leaves their firearm unattended and unsecured in our city so that a child, teen, thief, or other unauthorized person could gain access to it, thereby compromising the safety of our families and communities, then there should be accountability. This amendment allows for that.

Experts from the National Shooting Sports Foundation to the American Academies of Pediatrics and Family Physicians recommend storing firearms unloaded, locked, and separate from ammunition. While millions of responsible firearm owners follow these safe storage practices, we know that unfortunately over half do not.<sup>1</sup> An estimated 4.6 million American children live in households with at least one unlocked and loaded firearm.<sup>2</sup> Toddlers as young as 3 years old have the ability to pull a trigger.<sup>3</sup> Children and teens in gun-owning households often report

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<sup>1</sup> Crifasi CK, Douchette ML, McGinty EE, Webster DW, Barry CL. Storage Practices of US gun owners in 2016. *American Journal of Public Health*. 2018;108(4):532-537.

<sup>2</sup> Matthew Miller and Deborah Azrael, "Firearm Storage in US Households with Children: Findings from the 2021 National Firearm Survey," *JAMA Network Open* 5, no. 2 (2022): e2148823, <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2021.48823>.

<sup>3</sup> Naureckas SM, Galanter C, Naureckas ET, Donovan M, Christoffel KK. Children's and Women's Ability to Fire Handguns. *Arch Pediatr Adolesc Med*. 1995;149(12):1318-1322. doi:10.1001/archpedi.1995.02170250024003

easier access to the firearms than their parents think.<sup>4</sup> Three quarters of school shooters obtain the firearm from the home of a parent or close relative.<sup>5</sup>

Unsecured firearms pose a serious safety risk to children in Minnesota. Every year on average 41 Minnesota children and teens die by firearm, and over half of those are suicides.<sup>6</sup> Many more children are injured and left with a lifetime of physical and emotional consequences. Each time a child is injured or killed by firearm, the trauma results in ripple effects through a family and an entire community. With firearms now the number one killer of children in the United States<sup>7</sup>, it is incumbent on all of us to make every effort to prevent firearms from falling into the hands of kids and others who should not have them. Ordinance 23-22 is an important step in that direction.

Suicides make up three quarters of the firearm deaths in our state.<sup>8</sup> It is most often an impulsive act that would not have been re-attempted had the initial attempt not resulted in death. Firearms have a much high mortality rate than other methods, and often do not allow for a second chance. Secure firearm storage can provide crucial space and time between the often-brief urge to end one's life and the access to very lethal means, thereby providing a barrier that may be just enough to stop an impulsive act with tragic consequences.

According to St. Paul police, firearm theft from vehicles has been a growing problem here, as it has been nationwide. According to Everytown for Gun Safety, firearm theft from vehicles is now the largest source of stolen firearms,<sup>9</sup> which often wind up on the illegal market and used in crimes. Securing firearms in homes and vehicles is an important factor in decreasing criminals' access to firearms.

It would be ideal if a secure firearm storage law were passed at the state level. This session a bill was advanced in the House but unfortunately did not move forward in the Senate. So we wait...

The problem is that the next child whose friend or sibling wants to show them the unsecured firearm they found, and points it at them not realizing the severity of what is about to happen when they pull the trigger, doesn't have time to wait. The next family whose despondent loved

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<sup>4</sup> Baxley F, Matthew M. Parental misperceptions about children and firearms. *Arch Pediatr Adolesc Med*. 2006;160:542-547.

<sup>5</sup> National Threat Assessment Center, "Protecting America's Schools: A US Secret Service Analysis of Targeted School Violence," US Secret Service, Department of Homeland Security, 2019, <https://bit.ly/2U7vnwa>.

<sup>6</sup> Everytown for Gun Safety. <https://everystat.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Gun-Violence-in-Minnesota-2.9.2021.pdf> (last accessed April 24, 2023)

<sup>7</sup> Goldstick JE, Cunningham RM, Carter PM. Current causes of death in children and adolescents in the United States. *N Engl J Med* 2022;386:1955-1956.

<sup>8</sup> Minnesota Violent Death Reporting System Dashboard, <https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/injury/midas/mnvdrs.html> (last accessed April 23, 2023)

<sup>9</sup> <https://everytownresearch.org/gun-thefts-from-cars-the-largest-source-of-stolen-guns/> (last accessed March 24, 2023)

one has easy access to an unsecured firearm in a moment of despair and impulsively decides to turn that firearm on him- or herself doesn't have time to wait. The next person who will be the victim of a violent crime committed with an unsecured firearm stolen out of a vehicle in a St. Paul neighborhood doesn't have time to wait. Action is needed right now, which is why I am so grateful to the St. Paul City Council for being willing to lead by taking the step of requiring unattended firearms in St. Paul to be stored securely. Will this ordinance prevent every firearm injury and death in our city? No. But will it decrease gun violence and save lives? Undoubtedly.

The people of St. Paul can't wait. I ask for your "yes" vote on Ordinance 23-22.

Thank you,

Emily Benzie, MD  
Merriam Park  
Ward 4

**From:** [Steve Malevich](#)  
**To:** [\\*CI-StPaul\\_Contact-Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Emily Benzie](#)  
**Subject:** Support for ORD 23-22  
**Date:** Monday, April 24, 2023 10:56:13 PM

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Hi,

I want to send this E-mail because I believe in this ordinance. Unfortunately, because I'll be working, I can't attend the meeting this Wednesday at 3:30 PM at City Hall. But I agree we need to do everything we can to make our city and society a safer place.

Steve Malevich & Susan Conter  
2103 Carroll Ave  
St Paul, MN 55104

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**From:** [Eric Rosten](#)  
**To:** [\\*CI-StPaul>Contact-Council](#)  
**Subject:** Oppose proposed Ordinance 23-22  
**Date:** Monday, April 24, 2023 9:49:22 PM

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Dear St. Paul City Counsel,

I am writing you in opposition to the proposed Ordinance 23-22, which is an attempt to pass a so-called "safe storage" mandate for firearms within city jurisdiction.

This proposal/mandate is a violation of the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and also a violation of Minnesota State law which explicitly preempts counties, cities, townships, and other governmental entities from regulating firearms, except for zoning of gun shops and ranges and the discharge of a firearm.

This mandate is in violation of the US Constitution and MN State law, is unnecessary, and needlessly prohibitive against Law-Abiding MN state citizens and their natural-born Constitutionally guaranteed rights.

The Supreme Court Heller decision rejected a Washington, DC ordinance that required firearms to be stored/restricted in similar fashion as proposed by this Ordinance 23-22.

I STRONGLY oppose this proposal and ask St. Paul City Counsel to strike it down, abide by the U.S. Constitution, abide by MN State Law, and observe the US Supreme Court Heller decision in these matters!

Sincerely,

Eric Rosten  
10925 Wayzata, Blvd.  
Apt. 206  
Minnetonka, MN 55305

**From:** [Ward Nichols](#)  
**To:** [\\*CI-StPaul\\_Contact-Council](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Ordinance 23-22  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 25, 2023 5:26:04 AM

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I am writing in opposition to the proposed ordinance. Minnesota state law does not allow cities to enact any regulations on firearms except discharge and gun sales zoning. This ordinance would also be contradicted by the Second Amendment and the Heller decision of the Supreme Court.

The proposed ordinance should not move forward. It is an attempt to punish law-abiding gun owners and would not be followed by criminals.

I believe that the ordinance, if passed, would immediately become the subject of lawsuits. I do not want my Saint Paul tax dollars being used to attempt a defense of this ordinance.

Therefore, I ask that you drop this proposed ordinance immediately.

Sincerely,  
Ward Nichols  
Saint Paul

**From:** [Mary Kruser](#)  
**To:** [\\*CI-StPaul\\_Contact-Council](#)  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 25, 2023 6:26:03 AM

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I encourage you to support Ord 23-22 for secure gun storage. Anything we can do to promote gun safety is crucial. I'm sick of the easy access to guns, for example those left in cars which are then stolen, or in homes where children can access them. Mary Kruser--  
[gleekruser@gmail.com](mailto:gleekruser@gmail.com)

**From:** [Gretchen Damon](#)  
**To:** [\\*CI-StPaul>Contact-Council](#)  
**Subject:** Written testimony for ORD 23-22  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 25, 2023 7:52:07 AM

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In support of ORD 23-22

President Brendmoen and members of the City Council, thank you for considering this amendment which will make our city safer.

The number of firearms purchased in the United State since 2019 is staggering. Most people buy guns for protection, but less than half of these gun owners store them securely. The consequences are this: too many guns are being left unattended and easily accessed by children, teens, people in crisis, and thieves. To even begin to manage this dangerous situation, secure storage must be the law of the land. We can start in St. Paul.

The fear felt by city residents is palpable. Almost daily there is news of another incidence of gun violence. However, the cyclical nature of acquiring more guns to protect against gun violence is nonsensical. Unfortunately, fear is not based in rational thinking. It is an all-encompassing emotion.

We cannot do much about the number of firearms already in St. Paul, but we can take a step toward creating a safer St. Paul and helping residents to feel less afraid. We can keep firearms away from children who often know where they are and are curious about them. We can help our teenagers through mental health challenges without the fear of them finding a gun in their home. We can reduce the number of guns stolen, especially from vehicles, by criminals who cannot acquire firearms legally. We can help business owners to welcome people to a safer downtown. We can offer schoolteachers the freedom to eschew lockdown drills and the trauma they create. We can keep our emergency rooms quieter. Storing firearms locked and unloaded, with the ammunition stored separately, will reduce gun violence, which in turn will create safer neighborhoods, which in turn will lessen the fear people are feeling.

This amendment to city code will not solve all gun violence. In combination with other gun sense policies, we can make significant progress toward a safer St. Paul. Let's help city residents to feel less afraid by creating a culture of responsible gun ownership.

Thank you,  
Gretchen Damon  
St. Paul resident



**From:** [Judy Parr](#)  
**To:** [\\*CI-StPaul>Contact-Council](#)  
**Subject:** Ord 23 we  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 25, 2023 8:23:35 AM

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Hello Council members,

I am writing in support of this amendment. Just in the last week we have seen the results of “protecting “ one’s home with guns, as a young boy in Kansas City recovers from ringing the wrong doorbell and a young women is dead in New York for a mistaken driveway.

Please do your best to put a dent in the idea that shooting each other is what we need to do to feel safe!

Judy Parr Ward 2

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Howard Dickman](#)  
**To:** [\\*CI-StPaul>Contact-Council](#)  
**Subject:** Support for ORD 23-22  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 25, 2023 7:56:03 AM

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I am writing to voice my support for ORD 23-22 which encourage secure firearm storage. As a 43 year resident of St Paul, I am concerned by the rise in unnecessary shootings due to well intentioned citizens who do not safely secure their firearms permitting them getting into the wrong hands. Howard Dickman Ward 3

**From:** [Chases Mail](#)  
**To:** [\\*CI-StPaul\\_Contact-Council](#)  
**Subject:** Ordinance 23-22 opposition  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 25, 2023 8:52:17 AM

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Council,

I as a resident of St. Paul oppose this proposed ordinance as it will hinder my ability to respond to threats in a timely manner within my home. The vital seconds lost trying to open a safe or firearm lock while adrenaline is kicking in could be the difference in life or death for myself and my family.

Regards,

Chase

Message sent from my iPhone while not near my computer.



**From:** [Me](#)  
**To:** [\\*CI-StPaul\\_Contact-Council](#)  
**Subject:** Safe Storage Mandate  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 25, 2023 8:52:21 AM

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Sirs,

I am writing today to tell you that I am opposed to Ordinance 23-22, which requires firearms be locked up at all times. Vote NO on this.

Sincerely,  
Ben Moore

**From:** [A.K](#)  
**To:** [\\*CI-StPaul\\_Contact-Council](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed ordinance  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 25, 2023 8:52:25 AM

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**My Name is Aaron Krzewina and I would like to respectfully oppose this new proposed ordinance regarding defenseless storage mandate. I am currently staying in Minneapolis while my job requires me to travel throughout the state of Minnesota including St. Paul. I am currently sending this email to let it be shown on record that I oppose the defenseless storage mandate. Thank you.**

**From:** [bkfreebird@reagan.com](mailto:bkfreebird@reagan.com)  
**To:** [\\*CI-StPaul>Contact-Council](#)  
**Subject:** Oppose Ordinance 23-22 "Safe Storage"  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 25, 2023 8:52:28 AM

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Mayor Carter and St. Paul City Council members,

I urge you to withdraw and strongly oppose Ordinance 23-22, a mandate requiring "safe storage" of firearms (aka - defenseless storage).

This ordinance violates Minnesota state preemption laws and is also an unconstitutional infringement of the Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms of both the residents and visitors of the City of St. Paul.

The U.S. Supreme Court has already ruled against similar civil liberties infringements.

Why are good responsible American gun owners (and guns – inanimate objects that can do nothing on their own) always being blamed for violent crime and the senseless violent actions of predatory violent criminals and seriously disturbed individuals?

Clearly the problem lies with violent and disturbed individuals and not peaceable gun owners or their guns.

Obviously the focus needs to be on getting to the root of the violence in order to identify appropriate effective solutions.

What is important is understanding and addressing WHY violent predatory criminals and deranged individuals want to harm themselves or others in the first place, and WHY they follow through with those desires.

What is not important is the method or implement they choose to use because if someone is determined to harm themselves or others they don't need a gun to do it.

Also focus on enforcing the multitude of laws already on the books that aren't being enforced.

Magical thinking will not fix the so-called problem of "gun violence". Infringing the fundamental civil-liberties of good responsible people will NOT somehow magically stop violent crime, determined violent criminals, and deranged individuals.

Again, please withdraw and strongly oppose Ordinance 23-22.

Sincerely,

Brad Kodet

**From:** [Anne LeDuc](#)  
**To:** [\\*CI-StPaul>Contact-Council](#)  
**Subject:** Ord 23-22 safe storage amendment  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 25, 2023 9:32:03 AM

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I am writing in support of Ord 23-22, the amendment to the firearms discharge ordinance. Responsible gun owners are knowledgeable about storing their firearms locked and unloaded, separate from ammunition. This ensures vulnerable people like children and those with suicidal ideation do not have access. Death by gun violence is a national public health epidemic, and St Paul can help lead the way in gun violence prevention by setting this example.

Thank you.  
Anne LeDuc  
2200 Sargent Avenue  
St Paul MN 55105

**From:** [Marc Ohmann](#)  
**To:** [\\*CI-StPaul\\_Contact-Council](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition to the proposed Ordinance 23-22 concerning firearm storage in St. Paul  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 25, 2023 9:55:45 AM

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Dear St. Paul City Council Members,

I am writing as a concerned visitor to St. Paul to express my strong opposition to the proposed Ordinance 23-22 concerning firearm storage in St. Paul. This ordinance not only violates Minnesota's preemption law, which prohibits local governments from regulating firearms, but it also employs a dishonest approach by attempting to classify "storage" as a form of "discharge."

Minnesota law clearly states that the sole exception for local firearm regulation is discharge, and by misrepresenting the term "discharge," Ordinance 23-22 undermines the rule of law in our state. As a concerned citizen, I urge you to reconsider this proposed ordinance and respect the legal boundaries and framework established by the state of Minnesota.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I trust that you will uphold the state law and work towards solutions that respect the rights and concerns of our community.

Sincerely,  
Marc Ohmann  
952-703-3996

**From:** [MidWest Tactical Solutions Solutions](#)  
**To:** [\\*CI-StPaul\\_Contact-Council](#)  
**Subject:** City ordinance  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 25, 2023 9:57:50 AM

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Dear St. Paul City Council Members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed Ordinance 23-22 concerning firearm storage in our city. As a concerned resident/visitor, this ordinance is in direct violation of Minnesota's preemption law, which prohibits local units of government from enacting ordinances that regulate firearms.

The attempt to classify "storage" as a form of "discharge" is a dishonest approach to circumvent state law. I urge you to reconsider this ordinance and respect the legal boundaries set forth by the state of Minnesota.

Sincerely,

-Trevor Pontius  
(local small business owner)

**From:** [Jayce Primeau](#)  
**To:** [\\*CI-StPaul\\_Contact-Council](#)  
**Subject:** Oppose firearm storage laws  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 25, 2023 9:59:26 AM

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Dear St. Paul City Council,

As a concerned citizen, I am writing to oppose the proposed Ordinance 23-22 regarding firearm storage. This ordinance is in direct conflict with Minnesota's preemption law, which prohibits local governments from enacting regulations on firearms, with the sole exception of discharge.

The effort to define "storage" as a form of "discharge" is not only dishonest, but it also undermines the rule of law in our state. I kindly ask you to reconsider this proposed ordinance and respect the legal framework established by the state of Minnesota.

Finally, this ordinance will disproportionately negatively affect poor, minority communities. These people are suffering and scared from living in these dangerous neighborhoods. When they finally save up enough money to afford a gun for their own protection, the city decides that they need to scrape up more money to store it "safely". The simple answer is that they will not be able to afford a way to store their firearms in accordance with this ordinance, and what happens when you break the law? You go to jail, we don't need more poor minority parents in prison away from their children.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**From:** [Lisa Gallatin](#)  
**To:** [\\*CI-StPaul>Contact-Council](#)  
**Subject:** Support for Safe Storage Amendment (File # ORD 23-22)  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 25, 2023 10:03:01 AM

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Dear Council,

I am writing to urge you to support the proposed safe storage amendment to Chapter 225 of the Legislative Code relating to weapons.

Acknowledging that no one amendment, resolution, or law will solve all the problems around the complex environment of gun safety, I believe that any effort that can save one life in our city, state, and country is worthwhile. It will take a comprehensive approach to make a dent in this issue and I appreciate your diligence and careful consideration.

Thank you,  
Lisa Gallatin  
cell: 612-239-2258  
Ward 3 resident  
Moms Demand Action supporter



**From:** [Craig Burris](#)  
**To:** [\\*CI-StPaul\\_Contact-Council](#)  
**Subject:** Safe Storage Ordinance  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 25, 2023 10:05:50 AM

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I am writing to express our deep concern and opposition to the proposed amendments to Section 225.01 and Section 225.06 of the Saint Paul Legislative Code.

These changes are a violation of MN Statute. MN Statute 471.633 preempts local governments from regulating firearms, ammunition, or their respective components, with two narrow exceptions. The proposed ordinance falls outside the scope of these exceptions, as it attempts to regulate firearm storage rather than discharge and creates new regulations not covered by state law. The proposed ordinance is, therefore, inconsistent with MN Statute 471.633 and would be considered void.

In addition, it makes it harder for law-abiding citizens to keep a loaded firearm for self-defense. A direct violation of the Supreme Court, in *District of Columbia v. Heller* (2008).

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Craig Burris  
Lakeville, MN

**From:** [Jon Kotek](#)  
**To:** [\\*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#)  
**Subject:** Firearm storage  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 25, 2023 10:13:18 AM

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I must express my bewilderment at Ordinance 23-22 regarding firearm storage. It seems that the testimony from the deputy chief of police claims a simple lock will prevent theft of firearms. Are we to believe that a dollar store lock will deter criminals who wield electric saws to steal catalytic converters?

Lawful gun owners are already disarming in "gun-free zones" like St. Paul City Hall, and now a flimsy lock is expected to work miracles? I kindly request you reconsider this proposed ordinance with a touch of reality in mind.

Sincerely,  
Jon Kotek

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Catherine Brennan](#)  
**To:** [#CI-StPaul\\_Council](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: ORD 23-22 Safe gun storage  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 25, 2023 10:37:22 AM

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**Think Before You Click:** This email originated **outside** our organization.

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Catherine Brennan <[cabrennan58@gmail.com](mailto:cabrennan58@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Tue, Apr 25, 2023 at 10:29 AM  
**Subject:** ORD 23-22 Safe gun storage  
**To:** <[Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>

To the Council,

Please vote to pass the ordinance for safe gun storage. Not only have we had a 2yr old die recently from finding an unlocked gun in the bathroom, but St Paul Police tell us that car thefts are up because carjackers find unlocked guns in them, and will take between 10-20 cars a day to find one.

Thank you for all your efforts.

Sincerely,  
Catherine Brennan  
Resident of Finn St.

**From:** [Sam Wegner](#)  
**To:** [\\*CI-StPaul>Contact-Council](#)  
**Subject:** In opposition to storage ordinance  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 25, 2023 10:24:09 AM

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Dear Members of the St. Paul City Council,

I am contacting you to voice my opposition to Ordinance 23-22. The proposed firearm storage ordinance not only violates Minnesota's preemption law, but it also misrepresents the term "discharge" in an attempt to justify its enactment.

Minnesota law clearly states that local governments cannot regulate firearms, with the exception of discharge. Storage is not discharge, and attempting to classify it as such is dishonest. Please reconsider this proposed ordinance and uphold the state law.

Best regards,

Samuel Wegner

**From:** [Katey](#)  
**To:** [\\*CI-StPaul>Contact-Council](#)  
**Subject:** Safe Storage of firearms Ordinance.  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 25, 2023 10:25:05 AM

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Dear City Council,

I do business several times a year in the City of St. Paul. I'm a 60 year old woman and I spend a considerable amount of money there when I do. The high crime rate scares me to be honest. I hate to come there. Law enforcement does it's best, but the criminal justice system turns violent criminals back out on the street within hours. Repeat offenders and those using firearms in their crimes are also released within hours, on no more than a criminals promise to behave and come back to court. Your crime rate is rising at an unbearable rate and with this catch and release policy of the judiciary, it encourages such violent, unaccountable, behavior. I am a permit to carry holder, and for those reasons, I will not enter the Minneapolis & St. Paul Metro area with out my firearm.

Your response is not to blame and hold accountable the criminal, but rather to further make the law abiding citizen defenseless. The 2nd amendment was written that I might defend myself against criminals and those who would act violently to me. The State of Minnesota has a preemptive statute that tells us that you can't not disarm me any more restrictively than the state does.

If you pass this ordinance, the criminals will be more emboldened. The law abiding will be more defenseless. You will be opening up the city, not only to an explosion of more gun thefts and violent fun crime. I would expect that victims will be suing the city for removing their ability to protect themselves with court awards in the millions in many cases. You have not thought this through properly. The adverse affects far outweigh any marginal positive affect.

I suggest that you vote "NO!" on this ordinance and if you wish to do something meaningful, prosecute and punish the criminals.

Thank you for taking the time to read this,

Katrina Lunden

**From:** [Carla Gillespie](#)  
**To:** [\\*CI-StPaul>Contact-Council](#)  
**Subject:** ORD 23-22.  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 25, 2023 10:35:17 AM

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Dear Council Members,

I am a long-time resident of Ward 3, my husband I and I have raised a family here, our kids are Highland Park graduates. I am writing in support of legislation to amend Chapter **225 of the Legislative Code relating to weapons.**

Safe storage is a step we can take to address the epidemic of gun violence and save lives.

Because about 70 percent of U.S. Veteran deaths by suicide are the result of firearm injuries, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has compiled a lot of information on risk reduction. "Research shows that many individuals who have experienced a suicidal crisis indicated that it lasted only a matter of minutes. Contrary to popular belief, if a person experiencing a suicidal crisis can't access the method they planned to use, they generally do not seek out other lethal means to attempt suicide," according to the agency.

An average of 351 Minnesotans die by firearm suicide every year. Research shows safe storage can reduce that number.

A recent study has shown that safe storage reduces the risk of unintentional firearm injuries among children and teens by 85 percent. In St. Paul, gun-related injuries and death have been rising each year since 2020. Last year, 32 people were killed and 217 were injured by firearms. Research shows safe storage can reduce those numbers.

Finally, secure storage prevents unauthorized access to firearms. Eighty percent of school shooters under the age of 18 got the gun from their home or the home of a friend or relative, according to Everytown for Gun Safety.

**Please approve the Ordinance 23-22, Version 1 amendment to Chapter 225.**

Respectfully,

Carla Gillespie

**From:** [Beverly Ferguson](#)  
**To:** [\\*CI-StPaul>Contact-Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Mary Ann Jackson](#); [Terri Hawthorne](#); [GeorgAnn Burns](#); [Gary Brandenburg](#); [Leslie Kratz](#); [Linda Schloff](#); [Cynthia McArthur](#)  
**Subject:** ORD 23-22  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 25, 2023 10:49:54 AM

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I am strongly in favor of passing ORD 23-22 Safe Gun Storage. As a society our gun deaths and injury are out of control. We must do everything we can to stop this.

Beverly Ferguson  
2122 Carroll Ave  
Saint Paul, MN 55104  
651-644-1946

Sent from my iPad



**From:** [Mia Nosanow](#)  
**To:** [\\*CI-StPaul\\_Contact-Council](#)  
**Subject:** Support of amendment ORD 23-22  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 25, 2023 11:40:31 AM

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Dear City Council,  
I am in support of any law that helps keep people safe from gun violence. I am writing in support of St Paul's safe storage amendment to the city firearm discharge, ORD 23-22.

Thank you,  
Mia Nosanow  
2120 Carter Avenue  
Saint Paul 55107

**Mia Nosanow**  
[mia.nosanow@gmail.com](mailto:mia.nosanow@gmail.com)  
651-295-7422

**From:** [Barb Herrington- Hall](#)  
**To:** [\\*CI-StPaul>Contact-Council](#)  
**Subject:** Gun safety ordinance  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 25, 2023 11:42:14 AM

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Dear council, I am writing to ask support for the safe gun ordinance that you will be considering and voting on. Such simple measures are a no nonsense effective way to decrease gun accidents, injuries, and death.

Barb Herrington-Hall  
1436 Sheldon St.  
Ward 4 Presinct 13

**From:** [Collin Hough](#)  
**To:** [\\*CI-StPaul>Contact-Council](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition to Ordinance 23-22  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 25, 2023 11:50:26 AM

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Dear St. Paul City Council Members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed Ordinance 23-22 concerning firearm storing in our city. As a concerned resident of Railroad Island (Payne-Phalen, Eastside St. Paul), this ordinance is in direct violation of Minnesota's preemption law, which prohibits local units of government from enacting ordinances that regulate firearms.

The attempt to classify "storage" as a form of "discharge" is a dishonest approach to circumvent state law. Although well-intentioned, the belief that locking up firearms will prevent theft is unrealistic. Many gun locks can be easily dismantled with basic tools, and our city is already plagued with criminals using electric saws to remove catalytic converters and other basic hand tools to remove copper wire from streetlights.

I urge you to reconsider this ordinance and respect the legal boundaries set forth by the state of Minnesota.

Sincerely,  
Collin Hough

**From:** [Nicholas Pilney](#)  
**To:** [\\*CI-StPaul>Contact-Council](#)  
**Subject:** URGENT: Opposition to Ordinance 23-22  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 25, 2023 11:54:46 AM

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Dear Members of the St. Paul City Council,

As a former resident and frequent visitor of St. Paul, I am contacting you today to voice my opposition to Ordinance 23-22 regarding firearm storage. While I can applaud measures trying to be made to keep residents safe, this measure is not that. Criminals who have already decided to commit dangerous crimes will not be deterred by gun locks, and instead will just serve to "keep honest people honest", just as window and door locks do as well. Someone with malice and ill intent can overcome those with ease, and therefore becomes just another barrier to the law-abiding citizen.

Furthermore, I would like to express my displeasure with the definition of "storage" being equated with "discharge" in this proposal. Those terms hold significantly different meaning, and to try and make them appear equal to fit your agenda with this ordinance is frustrating and disheartening to see from local, elected officials.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I hope that you move to vote down this proposed Ordinance.

Sincerely,  
Nick Pilney, MA, LPCC

**From:** [Ali Hourigan](#)  
**To:** [\\*CI-StPaul\\_Contact-Council](#)  
**Subject:** In strong support of amendment to ORD 23-22  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 25, 2023 12:03:27 PM

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Good Morning,

I am writing today in support of the amendment to ORD 23-22. As a volunteer with the St. Paul chapter of Be SMART, a public awareness campaign which emphasizes the importance of secure gun storage, I understand how important and life-saving responsible gun ownership is.

I thank you for proposing this amendment and I stand in strong support of it.

Best,  
Ali Hourigan  
(612) 306-0151

**From:** [Bethany Lewis](#)  
**To:** [\\*CI-StPaul>Contact-Council](#)  
**Subject:** Letter of support for ORD23-22  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 25, 2023 2:23:05 PM

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Dear St. Paul city council members,

I'm writing today to express my strong support for the passing of ordinance 23-22, which is currently under consideration by the council.

As a mother of two young children, a resident of Mac-Groveland, and a responsible owner of guns (hunting rifles), I cannot stress enough how important it is to our collective safety that guns be safely secured in all places. I'm an active member of the St. Paul chapter of Moms Demand Action and well educated on the statistics showing the success of these measures in preventing unnecessary injury and death especially to children in homes that contain firearms. This is a simple and important step to protect the most vulnerable among us and begin curbing the epidemic of gun violence in our country.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued work in the service of our city.

Sincerely,  
Bethany Lewis

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Julie Rasmussen](#)  
**To:** [#CI-StPaul\\_Council](#)  
**Subject:** Gun Storage  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 25, 2023 2:26:26 PM

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Think Before You Click: This email originated outside our organization.

Please vote in favor of the bill to require safer storage of firearms. Gun owners have had their chance to act responsibly without legislation. The statistics on stolen guns later fired and children and others being hurt or killed as a result of easy access to guns speak for themselves. Vote for life and safety!

Sincerely,  
Julie Rasmussen  
923 Orchard Ave.

Sent from my iPhone