

Policy Committee Meeting

Saint Paul City Council
October 15, 2025



Introduction

- Moms Demand Action
 - Moms Demand Action is a non-partisan, national gun violence prevention organization.
 - Founded after the school shooting at Sandy Hook in 2012, the group advocates for gun sense legislation and responsible gun ownership.
- Gun Violence Prevention is a multi-factor problem
 - Today, we are focusing on protecting children

Agenda

- Provide background for three Moms Demand Action priorities
 - Ban assault weapons & high-capacity magazines
 - Promote secure firearm storage
 - Raise awareness of Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) law
- Ask for assistance locally & at a state-level
- Provide related resources
- Ask for direction for our volunteers




Background - Assault Weapon and High-Capacity Magazine Bans

- In process at time the draft slides were sent



Ask

- Support lifting state-level preemption of firearm regulation
 - Pass an ordinance banning public possession, sale, and transfer of assault weapons and high-capacity magazines in St. Paul
 - To go into effect when preemption is lifted, if need be
 - Work with St. Paul mayor and other city councils to support and encourage state leaders to vote on and pass a statewide ban
 - See West St. Paul Resolution 25
 - Work with St. Paul state delegation to support passage of statewide law to ban assault weapons and high-capacity magazines
 - Support statewide voter referendum for bans
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Materials or Resources Available

- Everytown for Gun Safety Assault Weapons and High-Capacity Magazines Fact Sheet <https://everytownresearch.org/report/assault-weapons-and-high-capacity-magazines/>
- West Saint Paul passed resolution supporting “efforts to strengthen background checks, require safe firearm storage, and ban the future sale and transfer of assault weapons and high-capacity magazines” <https://weststpaulreader.com/2025/09/23/west-st-paul-city-council-recap-sept-22-2025/>
- Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund, “Mass Shootings in the United States,” March 2023, <https://everytownresearch.org/mass-shooting-report/>.
- Charles DiMaggio et al., “Changes in US Mass Shooting Deaths Associated with the 1994–2004 Federal Assault Weapon Ban: Analysis of Open-Source Data,” *Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery* 86, no. 1 (2019): 11–19, <https://doi.org/10.1097/TA.0000000000002060>.
- Louis Klarevas, Andrew Conner, and David Hemenway, “The Effect of Large-Capacity Magazine Bans on High-Fatality Mass Shootings, 1990–2017,” *American Journal of Public Health* 109, no. 12 (2019): 1754-61, <https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2019.305311>
- Lundberg A, Fox J, Mohammad H, Mason M, Salina D, Victorson D, Parra-Cardona R, Post L, “Public Mass Shootings: Counterfactual Trend Analysis of the Federal Assault Weapons Ban,” *JMIR Public Health Surveill* 2024;10:e62952, URL: <https://publichealth.jmir.org/2024/1/e62952>, DOI: 10.2196/62952
- Violence Prevention Project <https://www.theviolenceproject.org/search-the-database/>

Background - Secure Firearm Storage

Current laws...

- Child Access Prevention law (2010) prohibits negligent storage of a loaded firearm where it could be accessed by someone under 18 year old
- There is no statewide Secure Firearm Storage law requiring firearms be stored in a secure way (Unloaded, locked, with ammunition stored separately)
- Saint Paul has an amended city ordinance - Section 225.06 (7)

Background—Secure Firearm Storage

Are not enough.


- Unsecured firearms contribute to
 - Unintentional shootings among children
 - In 2025—164 unintentional shootings by children, resulting in 70 deaths and 97 injuries nationally
 - Suicides
 - A vast majority — 72 percent — of 2024's gun deaths in MN were suicides
 - Mass shootings
 - Three-quarters of school shooters acquired their firearm from the home of a parent or close relative
 - Lost and stolen guns
 - Every 9 minutes a gun is stolen out of a car
- Today, approximately 4.6 million US children live in a household with at least one gun that is stored, while loaded and unlocked.

Background - Secure Firearm Storage

Regarding the Saint Paul City Ordinance, we raised awareness through

- District Council newsletters
 - 13 of 17 published our message
- Faith group newsletters/bulletins
- St. Paul City Council Member communications
 - Newsletters, social media, community events
- Letters to the editor - Pioneer Press and MN StarTribune

We also supported

- St. Paul library gun lock program
 - Installation of downtown parking ramp signage
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Coexistence of access & safety

Personal protection tops the list of reasons gun owners give for having a firearm

About seven-in-ten gun owners (72%) say protection is a major reason they own a gun. Considerably smaller shares say that a major reason they own a gun is for hunting (32%), for sport shooting (30%), as part of a gun collection (15%) or for their job (7%).

The truth is that guns are not typically used for self-defense, nor are they effective in deterring mass shootings or criminal activity. In fact, guns are more likely to be used in violent crime, get stolen, result in a fatal accident, or be used to facilitate a criminal homicide than be used in a protective capacity.

New technology offers quick access to firearms by the individual owner with biometric locks (fingerprint recognition) and RFID activated safes (key fobs and watch)



Cultural/Social Issues intertwined with Gun Violence

- Racial inequity
- Domestic violence
- Mental health
- LBGTQ+ youth

While it is difficult to separate firearms from larger societal issues, easy access to guns increases the likelihood that outcomes are deadly.

A community-first public safety model, like that in St. Paul, strives to address community issues with a coordinated, team approach while also working on solutions to gun violence.



Ask


Immediate

- Normalize everyday conversations about secure storage

Near-term

- Connect with representatives from SPPS to raise awareness
 - Be SMART information sent home &/or presentations given at schools
 - Promote “Goals not Guns” program of Office of Neighborhood Safety
- Install more parking ramp signs about unsecured guns in cars (DTA partnership)
- Increase supply and distribution of free gun locks (e.g. St. Paul public libraries)

Long-term

- Encourage support of statewide laws for secure firearm storage
 - Increase support for subsidized gun safes
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Materials or Resources Available

- [St. Paul City Council passes ordinance requiring gun owners to lock up firearms | MPR News](#)
- LGBTQ+youth
<https://bs1980402754.wpenginepowered.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Protecting-LGBTQ-Youth-from-Firearm-Suicide-9.24.pdf>
- [K-12 School Homicides - The Violence Project](#)
- [Domestic Violence and Firearms | Center for Gun Violence Solutions](#)
- [Debunking the 'Guns Make Us Safer' Myth - Center for American Progress](#)
- [Innovation in Gun Safety | Smart Tech Challenges Foundation.](#)
- Youth suicide
https://bs1980402754.wpenginepowered.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Be-SMART-Facts-and-Resources-on-Child-Firearm-Suicide_6.2024.pdf
- Secure storage practices
https://bs1980402754.wpenginepowered.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Be-SMART-SECURE-STORAGE-PRACTICES-TO-REDUCE-GUN-VIOLENCE_11-2024.pdf
- Unintentional shootings among children
https://everytownresearch.org/maps/notanaccident/?_gl=1*1h07kgm*_ga*MTY3ODA3Njc2Mi4xNzU0MzI4NzEw*_ga_68QYBV181T*czE3NTcyMDY1NDQkbzUkZzEkdDE3NTcyMDY3OTYkajYwJGwwJGgw
- [Proud Partnership with the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives | Be SMART](#)

Background - ERPO

- An Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) is a temporary court order that prohibits a person from possessing or purchasing firearms.
- In January 2024, the Minnesota Legislature enacted laws to authorize court-ordered surrender of firearms in certain dangerous situations. Minnesota is the 20th state to enact this type of legislation, often referred to as “red flag” laws.
- ERPOs can protect household members from self-harm or harm to others. They can also provide critical intervention to prevent mass harm, including school shootings, and domestic terrorism or violent extremism.

Source: <https://www.ramseycounty.us/your-government/leadership/county-attorneys-office/community-initiatives/extreme-risk-protection-order>



RAMSEY COUNTY
Attorney's Office
John J. Choi, County Attorney

Keep the message simple

- Not an extreme measure, rather an **temporary** measure for **extreme risk**
 - Risk to self or others
 - Create time and space - an extension of secure storage
 - You don't need to know everything - just know it exists
- **Who** can petition
 - Family members* or guardians, law enforcement, and city and county attorneys' offices may petition for an ERPO.
 - * A family or household member is defined as a spouse, former spouse, parent/child, anyone currently living with the Respondent or a person involved in a significant romantic or sexual relationship with the Respondent.
- **How** to petition
 - Active crisis: Call law enforcement
 - Potential crisis: Complete forms in person or online

Ask

Immediate

- Publish ERPO info in your newsletters
- Encourage your district councils to do the same

Near-term

- Connect with your SPPD or SPPS representatives to raise awareness
- Partner with Ramsey County Attorney's Office - for whom ERPO is a priority

Long-term

- Encourage support of the statewide ERPO law
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Materials or Resources Available

- Materials from Moms Demand Action
 - Social Media Post
 - Supporting article
 - ERPO Factsheet

Copies of these materials have been emailed to each city councilmember office



A 2024 study found that
**one life was saved for
every 17 to 23 ERPOs issued.**

Saving Lives Through Prevention: Minnesota's New ERPO Law in Action

Recent research from [Protect Minnesota](#) highlights that gun violence continues to impact communities across Minnesota, and deaths by firearms are increasing. In 2024, 564 Minnesotans lost their lives to gun violence—a rise from 530 deaths in 2023. Most of these deaths were suicides, accounting for 72%, while 26% were homicides.

Research has shown that access to a gun in the home increases the odds of suicide more than threefold. In 2024, Minnesota implemented an Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) law to create a critical window of time and space between a person in crisis and their access to firearms. Commonly known as “red flag laws,” ERPOs are civil court orders that temporarily prohibit individuals who pose a significant danger to themselves or others from possessing or purchasing firearms.

In its first year, Minnesota's ERPO law has shown promising results with 135 ERPO petitions filed statewide. Courts approved 95% of the emergency ERPOs and 78% of the long-term orders. While Minnesota's numbers increased this year, research shows that ERPOs are a successful intervention strategy over the long-term. A recent multi-state study found that one life was saved for every 17 to 23 ERPOs issued.

It is important to keep in mind that these orders are not criminal charges, they are preventative measures designed to protect lives, reduce harm, and connect individuals to the help they may need. To learn more about obtaining an ERPO in Ramsey County, visit ramseycounty.us/ERPO.

Heer Magg'y Emery, Executive Director of Protect Minnesota, discuss their 2024 report on gun deaths in Minnesota

ST. PAUL CHAPTER OF MOMS DEMAND ACTION

ERPO FACTSHEET

An Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) is a temporary court order that prevents someone from buying or possessing firearms if they pose a serious risk to themselves or others.

As of January 2024, Minnesota became the 20th state to pass a “red flag” law, allowing courts to intervene in potentially dangerous situations. ERPOs can help prevent suicide, domestic violence, mass shootings, and other acts of violence—providing families and law enforcement with a powerful tool to keep communities safe.

ERPO PROCESS

1. **Petition is filed.** An ERPO can be filed by a family member, law enforcement member or city or county attorney.
2. **Judge reviews the petition and schedules a hearing.** Hearings are held within 14 days.
3. **ERPO hearing is held.** The respondent has an opportunity to present evidence and contest the allegations.
4. **ERPO is issued.** If an ERPO is issued, the court will direct the respondent to turn any guns in their possession into law enforcement or an authorized gun dealer within 24 hours.
5. **ERPO expires.** Most ERPOs last between 6 months and a year. When ERPO expires, guns are returned to the respondent.

ERPO FACTS

- A 2024 multi-state ERPO study estimated that one life was saved for every 17 to 23 ERPOs issued.¹
- In 2024, the first year the law was in effect, 135 ERPO petitions were filed in Minnesota, with 71% initiated by law enforcement and 16% by family members.²
- Of those 135 petitions, courts granted 95% of emergency ERPOs and 78% of long-term orders.²
- Of the respondents to the 2024 petitions in Minnesota, 58% had a history of suicidal thoughts, 41% had documented mental health issues, 36% of cases involved domestic violence, and 25% occurred in the context of psychosis.²

Read more about ERPOs on the [Ramsey County ERPO information page](#) and [One Thing You Can Do](#).

¹ <https://aapl.org/content/early/2024/08/20/JAAPL.240056-24>

² <https://www.startribune.com/extreme-risk-protection-orders-red-flag-laws-in-minnesota-a-year-of-evidence-based-prevention/601223451>

- Additional Resources
 - [Ramsey County Attorney's Office ERPO](#)
 - [One Thing You Can Do - MN](#)
 - [Violence prevention project collaboration - ERPO](#)

How can Moms Demand Action help you?

- We are open to
 - Attending additional or alternate city council committee meetings
 - Considering action suggestions
 - Connecting with other partner organizations
 - Sharing additional resources, data, and access to experts
- Thoughts?