



February 7, 2022

Governor Jared Polis
Speaker Julie McCluskie
President of the Senate Stephen Fenberg
Sen. Dominick Moreno, Majority Leader
Rep. Monica Duran, Majority Leader
Sen. Faith Winter, Senate District 25
Rep. William Lindstedt, House District 33

We, the Mayor and City Council of the City and County of Broomfield, respectfully submit this call to action to the Governor and all members of the State legislature imploring you to pass effective statewide firearm regulations during the 2023 legislative session.

We cannot continue to hear about mass shootings and gun violence throughout Colorado and the entire United States without feeling despair for the loss of life, anguish at the physical and mental injuries sustained by survivors, and a strong call to action. Although Broomfield is fortunate to have violent crime statistics that are lower than the state and national average for communities of comparable population, members of our community have suffered tragically because of gun violence. Further, we are aware that Broomfield can easily become the site of the next mass shooting in one of our grocery stores, theaters, community centers, or schools.

As you know, C.R.S. § 29-11.7-103 was amended in June 2021 by SB 21-256 to allow local governments to implement stricter gun laws than the state. Several surrounding local governments initiated a regional effort on gun safety by passing similar local laws that address the possession, use and sale of firearms within their jurisdictions. We monitored these efforts, and the efforts nationwide to pass or repeal firearm laws following the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *New York v. Bruen* issued on June 23, 2022.

Historically, Broomfield has taken this issue seriously. We have had firearm restrictions in our Municipal Code since 1987. We have supported an annual proclamation for Gun Violence Prevention Day in recognition of the public health crisis that is gun violence in our region, state and country. We have supported our youth in the March for Our Lives walkouts from high schools in Broomfield and held community safety study sessions. Our police department offers self-defense classes, and provides gun locks in addition to having a successful mental health co-responder program since 2018. Our public health department has mental health initiatives in effect to help reduce suicides in our community. Even still, we know that more work needs to be done.

Therefore, and given the authority granted by SB 21-256, Broomfield City Council worked extremely hard over the last six months to amend our current local firearm laws. We held multiple public meetings with hours of public comment. We spoke with residents and stakeholders, and received hundreds of emails on this issue. This process resulted in the passage of the following Broomfield ordinances:

- Banning the sale and possession of rapid-fire trigger activators in Broomfield
- Banning the possession of unserialized firearms in Broomfield (aka “ghost guns”)
- Requiring that all firearm dealers in Broomfield post signs and provide an educational notification where a firearm sale/transfer occurs
- Prohibiting the open carry of firearms in public places located in Broomfield
- Prohibiting the conceal carry of firearms in Broomfield’s government facilities where signs and security measures are present

We tabled two ordinances that would have:

- Raised the age in Broomfield from 18 to 21 for an individual to buy a shotgun or rifle
- Required a ten-day waiting period and proof of specific training or experience prior to the sale of firearms in Broomfield

Two themes were clear in the comments and discussions we had with our residents. First, education is key. There was division on how to ensure firearm owners are well educated and trained on proper use of their firearm, and whether any such requirements would be codified into a law. Nevertheless, there was public support for education and training.

Second, Broomfield cannot act alone on this issue and we need state involvement. Broomfield’s proposed age restriction and waiting period/training ordinances were tabled until June with the hope that the state would take action during the 2023 legislative session. While we agree that local governments are uniquely equipped to determine what firearm regulations are appropriate in their jurisdictions, we also know that gun violence is not confined to one jurisdiction. The effectiveness of our local ordinances are greatly diminished because there is no consistency state wide. Even the efforts on a regional approach fell short and have created a patchwork among the northwest metro communities, which causes confusion and inconsistency for the public.

We need the state to take the lead in supporting the continuing efforts of state agencies, local governments, non-profits, and research institutions to find and effectively address the root causes of gun violence. Based on Broomfield’s data for the time period from 2017-2021, suicide was the most prevalent form of gun violence accounting for 24 out of the 27 incidences. In an effort to improve mental health outcomes, we need to increase mental health awareness training in our school programming and funding, as well as increasing immediate access to help when mental health is a concern.

SB 21-256 did not relieve the state of its obligation to enact legislation to protect the residents of Colorado from gun violence. We need the State to pursue reasonable solutions based on State data that can be shown to reduce the most prevalent gun violence in our state and communities. The solutions could include, but are not limited to, regulations on assault weapons, high-capacity magazines, age limits for firearm purchase or possession, waiting periods, and

educational/training requirements for purchase. Tighter restrictions on unserialized firearms (“ghost guns”) must happen statewide to reduce their use in crime across jurisdictional lines. In addition to improving mental health outcomes overall, solutions to an immediate crisis must also be considered and addressed statewide with the enactment of new laws or enhancement of existing laws such as the Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPO).

We implore you to take action that will prevent gun violence in its many forms, and impose laws regarding the purchase and possession of firearms. We need you to provide consistency across the state for lawful firearm owners and users, ensure existing laws are prosecuted to the fullest reasonable extent to prevent repeat offenses, and close the gaps between local ordinances that lawbreakers seek to exploit.

Thank you for your consideration.

Broomfield City Council



Guyleen Castriotta, Mayor