

**MINUTES
WINNETKA VILLAGE COUNCIL
STUDY SESSION
August 9, 2022**

(Approved: September 6, 2022)

A record of a legally convened meeting of the Council of the Village of Winnetka, which was held at Council Chambers on Tuesday, August 9, 2022, at 7:00 PM.

- 1) Call to Order. President Rintz called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Manager Bahan called the roll of the Village Council. Present: Trustees Rob Apatoff, Andy Cripe, Tina Dalman, Bob Dearborn, Kim Handler, and John Swierk. Absent: None. Also present: Village Manager Robert Bahan, Assistant Village Manager Kristin Kazenas, Village Attorney Peter Friedman, Deputy Village Clerk Berina Gradjan, and Police Chief Marc Hornstein, and approximately 33 persons in the audience.

- 2) Public Comment.

Chuck Dowding requests that Council does not sign letter of support for rejuvenation of Elder and Centennial Park because it may set a precedent for other planter boxes along the shorelines.

- 3) Listening Session – Firearm Safety.

President Rintz indicates that this is a listening session for Council, stating that the Highland Park shooting has influenced the conversation.

Village Attorney Peter Friedman briefs Council and members of the public on the Village Code pertaining to firearm safety and the regulations in place on a State and Federal level. Peter Friedman indicates some of the challenges that are presented under the second amendment and various ordinances pertaining to firearms in surrounding municipalities such as the Village of Deerfield and Village of Highland Park.

Police Chief Marc Hornstein informs Council and members of the public regarding the Firearm Owner's Identification Card process and the Police Department's regulations pertaining to firearms in the Village. Chief Hornstein confirms the various steps taken prior to a citizen being permitted to conceal and carry such as background checks that are completed in search of domestic violence incidents, mental health issues recorded with the State, screenings etc.. Chief Hornstein indicated how the Winnetka Police Department works with the State Police on matters related to firearms, the process of destruction regarding firearms, and the Police Department's plans to provide free gun locks to the public in an effort to enhance safety.

Council discusses matters related to mental health issues and firearm safety, Village records pertaining to FOID card holders, and partnership between the Police Department and New Trier High School, as well as partnership on a State level.

Public Comment.

Peter Gelderman briefs Council on the history regarding the AK47 and states that he does not believe citizens or Police Officers should carry the AK47.

Caryn Rosen Adelman states that she was present at the 1988 Winnetka school shooting and encourages Council to make positive decisions.

Stephanie Jacobs states that she was present at the Highland Park parade and that she does not believe that this is a political issue, but a public health issue. Ms. Jacobs believes that citizens should have the freedom to be in public spaces without the fear of someone in the general public carrying a firearm. Ms. Jacobson encourages Council to stand up and make a change.

Catherine Hurly, a student at the time of the 1988 Hubbard Woods School shooting, indicates that she is committed to addressing that the gun violence issue that is a public health crisis. She encourages Council to begin making a change.

Lauren Harper, a member of the Moms Demand Change group consisting of North Shore residents, states that she is working on issues related to gun safety and preventing gun violence. Ms. Hupper briefs Council regarding statistics of the youth and resources that may be utilized to address the firearm issues.

Speaker name not stated, commends the Village on their outreach to the community regarding Village signage and general information that may assist the public and encourages the Village to take action on keeping the community safe.

Kaity Brandtor supports the ban on assault weapons and encourages Council to take a stand.

Sara Gries briefs Council on her experience as a teacher with school shootings and hopes that Council can make a difference with gun violence.

Layla Danley hopes that the Village can send out a message for safe gun storage and provide statistics related to gun violence. Ms. Danley encourages Council's leadership.

Jonah Spazito encourages Council to take a stand and hopes that Council is reaching out to State representatives and State senators on the issue.

Meg Siel challenges Council to "break out of the box" and make a difference and redefine what is possible.

Jenna Daugherty states that she moved to the Village because of the safety in the community and encourages Council to take leadership.

Joanna Raimo helped lead the student walkout at New Trier High School after the Stoneman Douglas school shooting. Joanna Raimo feels that while there was dialogue regarding gun violence, she is disappointed that there has not been much change. She encourages the community and Council to take leadership and continue the conversation surrounding gun violence.

Jean Bishop, a resident whose family members were killed in a home shooting due to lack of safe firearm storage, is hopeful that Council will take action and make change regarding gun violence.

Jackie Raimo believes that there should be requirements for firearm safety and consequences for firearm incidents. She encourages Council to take action.

Lyla Kelber states that she does not feel safe at school and does not believe that metal detectors and armed teachers are the solution, but that a ban of assault weapons is implemented. She encourages education regarding firearm storage, warning signs, funding towards organizations for firearm safety, and encourages Council to take action.

Caroline Betso informs Council on United Kingdom's process for gun owners and the difference of regulations in place compared to the United States. Ms. Betso encourages actions to be taken.

Therese Peach states that her child was impacted by a bullet that came through her window while residing in New York, and recognizes that the Village's calmness is the strength that is needed. She encourages the community to work together towards peace.

President Rintz appreciates the comments made by members of the public and states that Council will convene on the issue in the near future.

- 4) Adjournment. Trustee Dearborn, seconded by Trustee Apatoff, moved to adjourn the meeting. By voice vote, the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

/s/Berina Gradjan, Deputy Village Clerk
Recording Secretary