



May 5th, 2026

Mayor Jacob Frey
Members of the Minneapolis City Council
c/o Office of the City Clerk, Casey Carl
350 S. 5th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55415

VIA EMAIL

Re: Illegal Firearms Ordinance

Mayor Frey & Members of the City Council,

The Minnesota Gun Owners Caucus has been made aware of the City's discussion about preempting firearms restrictions at your May 5, 2026 Committee of the Whole Meeting. While we understand the ordinance may purport to delay its effective date indefinitely, such language does not cure its legal defect.

This ordinance is facially invalid under state law and represents an unlawful assertion of municipal power.

Minnesota law could not be clearer. **Minn. Stat. § 471.633** states:

“The legislature hereby preempts all authority of local governments to regulate firearms, ammunition, or their respective components...”

This is an express preemption statute. It wholly and unambiguously prohibits cities from legislating in this domain. The Legislature itself made the consequence explicit: it “preempts all authority” of municipalities to regulate firearms and declares inconsistent local regulation “void.” Minn. Stat. § 471.633. And the Supreme Court of Minnesota has reaffirmed the broader municipal law rule that cities have no power to regulate in a manner that conflicts with state law or invades subjects the Legislature has preempted. *Jennissen*



v. City of Bloomington, 913 N.W.2d 456, 459 (Minn. 2018).

The City of Minneapolis lacks the authority to adopt any ordinance that regulates firearms or ammunition, whether directly or contingently. No legislative gimmick—such as an indefinite effective date—can circumvent a statutory bar.

Minnesota courts treat conflicting local enactments as invalid when they add requirements inconsistent with state law, and they do not require a futile local-law process where the proposed local measure conflicts with state law. *Bicking v. City of Minneapolis, 891 N.W.2d 304, 314–15 (Minn. 2017); Mangold Midwest Co. v. Village of Richfield, 274 Minn. 347, 356–57, 143 N.W.2d 813, 819–20 (1966)*. An ordinance that is invalid today does not become valid merely because its enforcement is deferred until an unspecified future date.

Should the City proceed with the passage of this ordinance, the Minnesota Gun Owners Caucus will **immediately initiate legal action** to challenge its validity in court.

We will seek **declaratory and injunctive relief** on behalf of our members, supporters, and all peaceable gun owners residing in Minneapolis whose rights and legal clarity are placed in jeopardy by this unlawful measure.

The ordinance's mere existence will cause constitutional and statutory harm, deter lawful conduct, and disrupt the rights and responsibilities of residents and businesses, subjecting them to its chilling effect.

Let us be clear: if the city enacts this ordinance, we will sue.

This ordinance is facially invalid and immediately susceptible to legal challenge. No delay clause, aspirational language, or symbolic gesture alters the plain fact that the ordinance would constitute an illegal act, passed without authority and in open defiance of state law.

We would bring to your attention our current litigation against the City of Saint Paul for passing a nearly identical ordinance.



We urge the Council to abandon this unlawful course of action and to respect both the constitutional limits of municipal power and the rights of your residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rob Doar". The signature is stylized, with the "R" and "D" being particularly prominent.

Rob Doar
General Counsel
Minnesota Gun Owners Caucus
contact@gunowners.mn

My name is Tess Rada. My daughter Lila is a third grader at Annunciation.

I have lived in South Minneapolis my entire life. I went to Kenny Elementary, I grew up in Kingfield, I've spent countless hours biking around Lake Harriet and Lake Bde Maka Ska, I've spent many summer days getting ice cream at Sebastian Joe's and petting the cats at Wild Rumpus, and I've spent so many late nights in uptown. When George Floyd was killed just a mile from my childhood home, I grieved and protested with my city.

When I settled down, I chose an apartment on the banks of Lake Minnehaha, just a block from Annunciation School. When it came time to enroll her in preschool, I missed the deadline for public schools, and so she was enrolled at Annunciation. It was a happy accident, because we have found a community there I could never have dreamed of. Part of the reason we chose Annunciation was because I have always been paranoid by school safety. Whenever a school shooting happened, my eyes would be glued to the screen, and my heart would break imagining I was in those parents' place. A private school seemed like the safest option.

When Lila was in first grade, I had a panic attack because her classroom was the closest to a door.

When Lila was in second grade, my heart lifted a little now that she was on the second floor.

When Lila was in third grade, a gunman shot 116 bullets into Annunciation church during all-school mass, killing a classmate she has known since kindergarten, Fletcher Merkel, as well as 10 year old Harper Moyski.

Lila and her class hid under the pews and then ran down to the basement, where they went into a preschool classroom and barricaded the door while the shooting continued. Her dad was in the parking lot, listening to the gunfire helplessly, because she had forgotten her lunch that day and he had just dropped it off.

When your worst fear comes true, it is hard to know what to do. I used to go to the memorial at the church in the middle of the night when I couldn't sleep. I have shed so many tears at that place, which proclaims above its doors: "This is the house of god and the gate of Heaven."

This has been the most painful experience of my life. My PTSD is so bad that I lost my job; Lila flinches and hides when unexpected noises occur. She and all of the other students had to grow up in that two minutes of gunfire; they now know that they are not safe, even at school, even in church.

After this happened, my immediate reaction was that I had to get out of this country. How could I keep my daughter in a country that almost killed her, in a country that I cannot assure her is safe.

My mind changed quickly. I work with kids as a theater educator, and even though I cannot protect Fletcher and Harper, I can't protect Lila and her friends, I can do everything in my power to protect the kids this hasn't happened to yet. I will fight for those kids like I fought through all of the things this city has gone through in the past 6 years. I love this city, despite what has happened here. I will never give up fighting for this. I will fight for the rest of my life in the hope that my legacy is kids being a little safer.

Annunciation families don't have the luxury of shielding our kids from the knowledge of school shootings. But you do.

Don't wait until it's too late. I urge you to pass this Ordinance. **So that the suffering our children have endured is not for nothing.**

Thank you.

Good afternoon. My name is Nicole Farrell, and I'm the mom of two — a graduate of Annunciation and a seventh grader at Annunciation.

On the morning of August 27, my twelve-year-old was sitting with his classmates in a place that should have been the safest space imaginable. Instead, he found himself hiding under a church pew, watching the blood of a classmate inch closer to him. He listened to other kids whisper prayers, wishing they would stop as he was terrified the gunman would hear and find them.

~~We're lucky: our child was not physically hurt. But he is certainly not the kid I sent to school that morning.~~

Life for our family looks very different now. My son is always on alert, scanning for danger. Unexpected noises, as simple as opening a can of crescent rolls for dinner, can send him spiraling. The normal sounds of our home — his safe space — now feel threatening. My stomach drops every time I see a flood of messages in the parent chat, because that's how I learned what was happening that morning. My oldest used to babysit Fletcher Merkel, one of two children murdered on August 27. She grieves for him and the innocence of his siblings. She worries if her brother will be scared when he goes to one of her track meets to cheer her on and the sounds that accompany the start of each race. Every week, our family sits with professionals helping us build tools for a "new normal" none of us asked for.

And like so many families we are trying to find our footing in a world that no longer feels predictable or safe. ~~The ripples of that day extend far beyond our home. They reach our neighbors, our community, and everyone who hears our story. All of you here today are part of those ripples. You can no longer say you haven't been touched by gun violence, because seeing us and hearing us makes you part of its impact.~~

Yesterday, the Senate passed Senate File 4067. News coverage has described it as a measure aimed at strengthening safety in schools and communities, and for families like mine, that step forward is meaningful.

On Thursday, a vote on an ordinance in Minneapolis to prohibit high capacity magazines, ghost guns and more will take place. These ordinances and bills are not just for Annunciation families alone. It is not an ordinance or bill for one school, one neighborhood, or one moment in time. They are for our entire city, our entire state, and every community that wants to prevent another family from living through what ours is.

Recently, while helping my son proofread a social studies essay, he shared with me what he had learned about all the changes our ancestral lawmakers made as our country was being formed. Even my 12 year old could articulate that as lawmakers recognized that as our country, our world changed, our laws had to change too. He understood that a society that evolves must also adapt its policies to meet new realities.

It reminded me that acknowledging change isn't weakness — it's wisdom. It's leadership. ~~And it's one of the most important lessons we can pass on to our kids. that it's okay to change our minds when the world around us changes. It's okay to learn. It's okay to grow.~~ As Maya Angelou said, "When you know better, do better."

A safer future depends on the partnership between ordinary people who refuse to be silent and city and state leaders who refuse to be complacent. Yesterday's Senate vote shows that ~~some of~~ ^{+ vote here on Thurs} our leaders are willing to take that step because the simple truth is that every child, in every Minnesota community deserves to feel safe in their school, and every family deserves to feel whole at the end of the day.

My family is living with something we never imagined. I hope no other family ever has to. And I believe that when we recognize how much our world has changed — and when we allow our laws to reflect that reality — we move closer to a future where safety isn't something we hope for, but something we can count on.

Thank you!