



STPAUL.GOV

CITY OF SAINT PAUL

Gun Violence Prevention Ordinance 25-65

Staff Report to City Council – October 22, 2025



TIMELINE

Planned timeline for the ordinance process

- October 22: First reading and staff report
- November 5: Second reading and public hearing
- November 12: Third reading and final passage



BACKGROUND

Preemption Law prohibits local governments from creating their own regulations on various subjects, most notably firearms, to ensure consistent statewide rules.

- Regarding firearms, state law completely preempts local authority over regulating firearms, ammunition, and their components.

Response to inaction at the state level to implement policies that address the epidemic of gun violence.

Cities from across Minnesota are united in calling for either:

1. Repeal preemption and allow cities to lead; OR
2. Implement more robust State policies



BACKGROUND

Ordinance 25-65 builds on Saint Paul's **Safe Storage** ordinance

- Adopted in May 2023 – Unanimous Passage
- Requires gun owners to store firearms unloaded and secured in a locked container or with a locking device
- Marked a critical step toward reducing accidental shootings and preventing unauthorized access to firearms—especially by children



LOCAL ORDINANCE

Mayor Carter's proposed Ordinance 25-65 seeks to:

- Ban public possession of assault weapons within city limits
- Ban large-capacity magazines and binary triggers within city limits
- Require all firearms to have a serial number and prohibit untraceable ghost guns
- Restrict firearms in sensitive public City-owned, leased, or controlled spaces including parks, libraries, and recreation centers
- Ensure clear signage at City-owned, leased, and controlled facilities to inform residents and encourage compliance
- Establish penalties for violations and authorize enforcement by local public safety officials upon the contingent enactment



EXEMPTIONS

The following individuals have been identified as exempt from the proposed ordinance:

- ☐ Active-duty law enforcement and military personnel
- ☐ Licensed federal firearms curators
- ☐ Transport through the city (if unloaded, locked, and legally compliant)
- ☐ Disposal or transfer to authorized agencies



COALITION

Coalition members include mayors, city officials, and leaders from:

- Saint Paul
- Minneapolis
- Bloomington
- Brooklyn Center
- Columbia Heights
- Eden Prairie
- Golden Valley
- Hopkins
- Minnetonka
- Mounds View
- Richfield
- Rochester
- Shoreview
- Saint Louis Park
- Stillwater
- West Saint Paul
- UMN Law Gun Violence Prevention Clinic
- Minnesota Moms Demand Action
- Protect MN
- Everytown
- Giffords
- Goals Not Guns coalition schools





PROHIBITED WEAPONS & DEVICES

Ordinance 25-65 will ban the following within City limits:

- Public possession of **assault weapons** as defined in Minnesota State Law
- **Large-capacity magazines** that hold 20 or more rounds of ammunition
- **Binary triggers** – Devices that cause a firearm to discharge more than one round when the trigger is pulled



GHOST GUNS

Ordinance 25-65 prohibits **Ghost Guns** in Saint Paul

A **Ghost gun** is:

- A firearm that does not have a serial number
- A firearm built from a kit or 3D printed parts that do not have a serial number
- A frame or receiver without a serial number that is designed or marketed to be readily assembled into a functional firearm

Ghost guns do not include firearms manufactured prior to 1968, antique firearms, or firearms rendered “permanently inoperable”



GUNS PROHIBITED IN SENSITIVE SPACES

Ordinance 25-65 bans possession of any firearm in any **Sensitive place** within the City of Saint Paul.

Sensitive place means any City-owned, -leased, or -controlled building or property that is open to the public for governmental, educational, recreational, cultural, or civic purposes, including but not limited to City Hall and City offices, libraries, recreation centers, indoor and outdoor park spaces and park buildings, playgrounds, athletic facilities, arenas, and zoos.

Exceptions include:

- City personnel in the course of their official duties
- Persons who are otherwise expressly authorized by state law to possess firearms on premises notwithstanding municipal prohibition
- Situations where possession of a firearm is necessary to render medical aid or address another imminent emergency, provided the person notifies facility staff or law enforcement as soon as practicable



SIGNAGE

Ordinance 25-65 requires the City to post signage to promote voluntary compliance.

The City must:

- Post a sign at each public entrance to Sensitive places with notice of all applicable firearm prohibitions
- Post additional signs in important interior locations including customer service desks, gymnasium entry points, and additional activity entry points

Each sign shall state: “THE CITY OF SAINT PAUL BANS FIREARMS ON THESE PREMISES” and include citation to the applicable section of Saint Paul Legislative Code.



CONTINGENCY & ENFORCEMENT

Once passed, Ordinance 25-65 is contingent and will not be effective until one or both of the following happens:

1. Repeal of the State Preemption Law (MN Statute 471.633)
 2. Passage of any Minnesota law substantially the same as any part of the ordinance or that authorizes cities to enact and enforce such regulations
- The Ordinance will be enforced by Saint Paul Police only **after** becoming effective.
 - All violations, once effective, will be subject to a misdemeanor.



Thank you!