

THE CITY OF WARWICK
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. Date

Approved. Mayor

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ESTABLISHING GUN FREE SCHOOLS

RESOLVED, that

WHEREAS: Current state law allows Concealed Carry Permit ("CCP") holders to carry firearms onto school grounds; and

WHEREAS: The vast majority of states do not permit firearms on school grounds; and

WHEREAS: A study by the Violence Policy Center, a Washington D.C. gun safety organization, found, from May 2007 to February 2015, that in research involving 722 deaths in 544 concealed-carry shootings in 36 states and the District of Columbia, the vast majority of those killing were deemed non-self-defense and only 16 cases were eventually ruled lawful self-defense; and

WHEREAS: A two year comprehensive Final Report of the Sandy Hook Advisory Commission, consisting of school administrators, teachers, law enforcement, psychiatrists, law makers and legal professionals, dated February 2015, made findings including "Safe School Climate" and "Safe School Design and Operations Strategies" that specifically did not include the use of firearms or the arming of teachers or non-law enforcement civilians in schools; and

WHEREAS: The National School Boards Association believes that students must have safe and supportive climates and learning environments that support their opportunities to learn and that are free of abuse, violence, bullying, weapons, and harmful substances including alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs; and

WHEREAS: The Rhode Island Association of School Committees' Executive Board have voted to support banning concealed weapons on school grounds, except for duly authorized members of law enforcement; and

1 WHEREAS: The Rhode Island School Superintendents' Association has adopted the
2 School Superintendents Association "AASA Position Paper on School Safety: A response to the
3 Tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary," which specifically denounces "efforts to bring more guns
4 into our schools by teachers and administrators," and reminds us that "schools remain the safest
5 place for children"; and

6 WHEREAS: The Rhode Island Association of School Principals Executive Board has
7 voted to endorse and support the ban on concealed weapons on school grounds, except for au-
8 thorized members of law enforcement, holding to its core belief that school environments should
9 be devoid of all conditions that may compromise the safety of students and staff; and

10 WHEREAS: Rhode Island education leadership has carefully considered and implement-
11 ed regularly audited school and district wide building safety plans and emergency protocols In-
12 clusive of first responders, local law enforcement, and the school community; and

13 WHEREAS, the Warwick School Committee approved a Resolution on Gun Free
14 Schools at a duly held meeting on March 6, 2018 and which, in relevant part, requests the City of
15 Warwick to support their resolution to establish Gun Free Schools.

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Warwick
17 hereby adopts this resolution to establish Gun Free Schools and hereby request that the R.I. Gen-
18 eral Assembly introduce and pass appropriate legislation to establish Gun Free Schools in our
19 State..

20 This Resolution shall take effect upon passage.

21
22 SPONSORED BY: COUNCILWOMAN TRAVIS
23 ON BEHALF OF MAYOR AVEDISIAN AND THE WARWICK
24 SCHOOL COMMITTEE

25 COMMITTEE: HEATH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE
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