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Common Council Declares June 2, 2023 as National Gun Violence Awareness Day, June as National Gun Violence Prevention Month

ALBANY, NY – The Albany Common Council on June 5 declared June 2, 2023 as National Gun Violence Awareness Day and June as National Gun Violence Prevention Month in the City of Albany. The annual efforts are part of a nationwide spotlight on both increased shootings and gun deaths in the United States and the role that elected officials can play in the safety of the communities they serve.

"It's an ongoing discussion and an ongoing push … for our national leaders to take a stand and make sure that these guns don't get into the hands of individuals that are going to use them to harm others and kill innocent people." **Councilmember Alfredo Balarin** said. "Unless we start addressing that, we're not going to see these gun crimes [go away]."

"Every day I see the State Police, the sheriffs, the Albany Police are taking guns off the streets" **Councilmember Jack Flynn** said.

 "We've made some progress in our city on addressing gun violence over the past decade, but for far too long, too many people in our city, gun violence remains an unacceptable fact of life," **Councilmember Owusu Anane** said. "We all want the violence to stop, and yes, we need the community to assist with efforts to cooperate with police and our law enforcement elected officials.

But at the end of the day, we need leadership and a plan to properly address this so this violence does not become a norm in our city."

Albany had 19 homicides in 2022, with 96 victims shot. After a series of shootings this May, the Common Council called a May 24 meeting of its Public Safety Committee to discuss gun violence, pending legislation and law enforcement strategy with Albany Police Chief Eric Hawkins.

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