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June 1, 2022

Dear Governor DeWine:

In the early hours of August 4, 2019, Dayton became one of the countless communities to fall victim to a horrendous mass shooting in the heart of our city. The innocent community members who lost their lives while they were enjoying an evening out, never anticipating it to be their last, left our community in shock and pain.

As you remember, that very same day, many of us joined you on a stage in the Oregon District facing a large crowd of residents who were still reeling from the news. The crowd was gathered on the very spot where their neighbors had been gunned down just hours earlier by a young man with an AR-15 style pistol fitted with a 100 round magazine. Their grief, anger, and helplessness took the form of a chant, shouted at everyone on stage – begging us to make sure a tragedy like this could never happen again: Do Something.

At the City of Dayton, we heard our fellow Ohioans loud and clear. Since that night, we have collectively:

- Advocated alongside bipartisan city and state leaders to pass the Strong Ohio package
- Advocated alongside bipartisan city and federal leaders to pass H.R. 8 and H.R. 1446, the Bipartisan Background Check Act and the Enhanced Background Checks Act
- Joined the City of Columbus in a lawsuit to fix loopholes in the Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) background check system
- Supported a lawsuit by survivors against the manufacturer of the 100-round magazine used in the shooting
- Participated in a consortium of cities exploring using our police departments' purchasing power to promote the creation of safer handguns.
- Used our experiences to help create a Mass Shooting Protocol, which is distributed to city leaders nationwide experiencing a mass shooting.

Now, almost three years later, as we, alongside our fellow Americans, mourn the preventable deaths in Buffalo and Uvalde, we write to ask you: what have you done?

As a city, we are limited from taking the actions that would be most effective in stopping these tragedies. Cities are prevented from creating restrictions on access to guns, including for people who are known to be a danger to themselves or others. But the state government faces no such

hurdle, which is why we worked alongside you after the shooting in Dayton to pass common sense measures like expanded background checks and civil protection orders.

We knew that convincing the legislature would be an uphill battle. But we also knew that these were reasonable measures that protected Second Amendment rights, while enhancing community safety. Even more so, we knew we had a responsibility to the people of Dayton to try anything and work with anyone we could to prevent this from happening again. But what has come of those efforts? What do we say to the people demanding we do something?

Governor, you knew the right thing to do. You told us that you were with us in our fight to protect our citizens. You told us you would do something, and we believed you.

So again, we ask you – what **have** you done, Governor?

- In 2021, you signed the “Stand Your Ground” law, over the objections of Dayton survivors and civil rights leaders. This law allows someone to shoot another person if they feel threatened, without having to try to take cover or move away from the threat first. According to Giffords Law Center, studies have found that Florida’s Stand Your Ground law was associated with a 32% increase in firearm homicide rates and a 24% increase in overall homicide rates.¹
- In 2022, you signed permitless carry over the objection of Dayton law enforcement, removing the requirement that people who carry a concealed weapon to obtain a permit. According to Everytown for Gun Safety, states that have weakened permit requirements have seen 13-15 percent increases in violent crime rates, and 11% increases in handgun homicides.²

Instead of taking the common-sense steps you promised us you would take to make our community safer, you signed laws that will increase violence. You chose to put politics over the people of Dayton. You chose to put politics over the promises you made. You chose to make it easier to carry and use guns in Ohio. This is not the “something” our community and state deserve.

But, even now, it is not too late. You can still veto House Bill 99, which would allow adults to carry guns within schools. This dangerous legislation will surely make schools less safe for our children, teachers, and law enforcement, while serving no real purpose to deter mass shootings.

If you are willing to work with us to keep deadly weapons out of the hands of dangerous people – we stand at the ready. We heard our constituents – our friends and neighbors – shouting in the Oregon District that night, and we intend to keep the promises we made to them. We will work with anyone, regardless of previous disappointments, who is willing to heed their call.

¹ <https://giffords.org/lawcenter/gun-laws/policy-areas/guns-in-public/stand-your-ground-laws/>

² <https://everytownresearch.org/report/permitless-carry-carrying-a-concealed-gun-in-public-with-no-permit-and-no-training/>

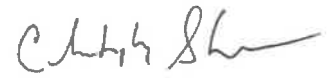
Sincerely,



Jeffrey J. Mims, Jr.
Mayor



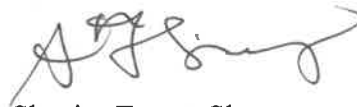
Matt Joseph
City Commissioner



Christopher Shaw
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Darryl Fairchild
City Commissioner



Shenise Turner-Sloss
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