March For Our Lives Rally Planned for Downtown Richmond

RICHMOND, Calif., Mayor Tom Butt announced strong support today for the national March For Our Lives movement and has kick-started plans for a rally on March 24 in Downtown Richmond. Richmond is joining nearly 500 worldwide events that will coincide with the youth led and organized March For Our Lives action in Washington D.C.

The national organization has mobilized countless student groups and leaders to take a stand, amplifying their message against gun violence and calling on Congress to pass comprehensive gun reform legislation. As a community that has been severely impacted by gun violence, Richmond residents and youth are all too aware of the need to restrict the availability of assault weapons.

Mayor Butt stated: “Violent crime, including both shootings and homicides, in Richmond is thankfully decreasing, but there are still far too many assault weapons on the streets. The most recent school shooting in Parkland Florida may be the tipping point that will finally turn this around and force Congress to stand up to the NRA and take action.”

“As a Vietnam veteran, I know something about guns. Before spending a year in Vietnam as a combat engineer, I was a basic combat training officer teaching soldiers how to destroy the enemy. I qualified as an expert on the M-16, the military version of the AR-15, and can still field-strip one in a couple of minutes. What I do know is that there is no legitimate reason for anyone to be able to purchase or own an assault weapon in our society. I also know the devastating damage that small high-velocity ammunition such as that used by the AR-15 can do to human tissue.

“I am committed to standing with the new generation of leaders who are demanding action and will not take no for an answer.”

Mayor Tom Butt is encouraging all local leaders to join in organizing around the opportunity on Saturday March 24th to contribute their efforts to the movement. For additional information, contact Alex Knox, Chief of Staff, at: alex_knox@ci.richmond.ca.us, 510-620-6503.

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