



MEMORANDUM

Austin Police Department *Office of the Chief*

TO: Mayor and Council Members

FROM: Brian Manley, Chief of Police

DATE: September 30, 2020

SUBJECT: Response to City Council Resolution No. 20200123-112, Firearm Safety

The purpose of this memo is to provide an update on Resolution No. [20200123-112](#), which directed the City Manager to seek out a collaborative effort with the Office of the Governor for State funding for firearm safety educational materials such as gun locks for public distribution.

The Austin Police Department (APD) has conducted research and communicated with the Governor's office through the [Criminal Justice Division](#), for potential grant funded opportunities; however, no funding was available for these specific purposes outlined in the Resolution. The Department will continue to actively explore future grant funding opportunities and solicitations that further promote safe firearms from the Governor's office and the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF). The NSSF administers the Project Child Safe Program, which promotes firearm safety through the distribution of free firearm safety materials and safety public education messaging.

Although APD was not successful in identifying grant funding, in February of 2020 APD, along with other Texas law enforcement agencies, received free gun lock donations and safety brochures from the State of Texas. These gun locks are maintained by APD in original form and are distributed to various constituents throughout Austin at community events and meetings including, neighborhood watch trainings, town hall meetings, National Night Out events, Coffee with a Cop, and community safety presentations. In addition, these free guns locks are available at every police substation and publicized on [APD's website](#). Furthermore, APD met with [Moms Demand Action](#) earlier this year, to discuss opportunities for collaboration and to provide the advocacy group with an allotment of gun locks for distribution. APD will continue to seek opportunities to work in partnership with Moms Demand Action and other organizations that promote gun safety.

Educating the community on safe firearm storage remains a high priority for APD and is vital to the safety of our community as we aim to prevent gun violence. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, APD has temporarily transitioned to a web-based community outreach approach. The Department looks forward to re-launching in-person events once restrictions have been lifted and will remain committed to promoting the safe storage and handling of firearms.

Should you have question, please do not hesitate to contact me.

CC: Spencer Cronk, City Manager
Rey Arellano, Assistant City Manager