

RESOLUTION NO. _____

WHEREAS, as of December 23, 2015, a total of 12,942 people had been killed in the United States in a gun homicide, unintentional shooting, or murder/suicide¹; and

WHEREAS, approximately one-third of American children live in homes with firearms, and of these households, 43 percent contain at least one unlocked firearm; and

WHEREAS, more than two million American children live in homes with unsecured guns, and 1.7 million live in homes with guns that are both unlocked and loaded; and

WHEREAS, 75 percent of children killed with guns this year have been under the age of 12; and

WHEREAS, children are far more likely to die from guns owned by family members and acquaintances than strangers, according to an NBC News analysis of FBI data; and

WHEREAS, the *Washington Post* reported in October 2015 that 59 times that year children younger than three years of age had found a gun and shot someone; and

WHEREAS, a recent study of adolescent suicides found that more than half were carried out with a gun from the adolescent's home; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence assaults with firearms are 12 times more likely to result in death than those without them; and

WHEREAS, many of these tragedies could be avoided if gun owners would store their guns responsibly prevent children from accessing them; and

WHEREAS, educating gun owners about responsible firearm storage could help reduce the number of individuals wounded or killed in unintentional shootings; and

WHEREAS, guns obtained from non-licensed vendors, pawn shops or received as gifts, may not come with safety devices; and

WHEREAS, properly storing firearms, including using firearm locking devices, lock boxes, and firearm safes and vaults can greatly increase gun safety in the home;

WHEREAS, the Be SMART campaign (besmartforkids.org), designed by Moms Demand Action and supported by Everytown for Gun Safety, provides videos, downloadable brochures, and other resources to assist parents in discussing gun safety with parents of their children's peers and other adults;

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Manager is directed to work with the Austin Police Department and with community partners as appropriate to immediately prepare and distribute gun safety brochures at community festivals, neighborhood association and community meetings, and other public events. These brochures should address the safe handling and storing of firearms as well as offer suggestions for how to discuss these matters with others.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager shall schedule an event to give away free gun locks and educational brochures and shall also make these resources available to the public at neighborhood association and community meetings as well as events and festivals.

ADOPTED: _____, 2016

ATTEST: _____
Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk