

Revised

Late Backup

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, on average over 100 people in the United States are shot and killed every day, thousands of Texans die from incidents involving firearms every year, and almost 200,000 of Texas children live in homes with unlocked and loaded guns; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, Texas had the highest number of children aged 17 or younger who were unintentionally shot by themselves or someone else in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the number of guns stolen or lost in Austin almost tripled between 2006 and 2015, and estimates show that hundreds of thousands of guns were stolen in Texas during that period; and

WHEREAS, educational campaigns such as Be SMART that emphasize storing guns unloaded and locked with ammunition kept in a separate place can mitigate the potential risk for firearm injury and may save children's lives; and

WHEREAS, some jurisdictions require gun owners to comply with safe storage guidelines, but Texas relies on voluntary compliance; and

WHEREAS, Council passed Resolution No. 20161215-064 directing the City Manager to work with the Austin Police Department (APD) 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. Council further directed that these brochures should address the safe handling and storing of firearms as well as offer suggestions for how to discuss these matters with others. ~~City Manager and Austin~~

~~Police Department (APD) to develop and distribute firearm safety brochures and free gun locks at community events; and~~

WHEREAS, the National Sports Shooting Foundation (NSSF) launched Project ChildSafe in 1999 to distribute gun locks at no cost to gun owners through law enforcement agencies, including APD, and has distributed more than 38 million gun locks in the last 20 years. ;In addition, there are other programs that distribute gun locks and educational materials; and

WHEREAS, the NSSF imposes regulations on municipalities accepting such locks, including that they be distributed only with NSSF-approved literature; and

WHEREAS, since Council's passage of Resolution No. 20161215-064, APD has distributed approximately 1,042 gun locks to the community; and

WHEREAS, the State of Texas provided grant funding to NSSF's Project ChildSafe, following a recommendation in the School and Firearm Safety Action Plan produced by the Office of the Governor in response to the tragic mass shooting at Santa Fe High School in May, 2018, with the goal of reducing unintentional shootings, gun theft, and misuse, including suicide; and

WHEREAS, in a letter dated September, 2019, NSSF requested that law enforcement partners, including APD, not distribute gun locks through Project ChildSafe to organizations that advocate for gun safety legislation and against the less restrictive policies NSSF promotes, citing concerns about misappropriation of the equipment and the use of "firearms safety education as an entry point to discuss other policy issues"; and

WHEREAS, as is consistent with prior Council action, the City of Austin encourages the safe handling and storage of firearms, and is committed to providing educational materials and equipment to facilitate firearm safety; **NOW THEREFORE**,

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

The City of Austin reaffirms its commitment to the safety, health, and welfare of all its residents, including through the promotion of the safe storage and handling of firearms.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to work with the Office of the Governor in an effort to ensure that grant funding for firearm safety education programs is used to distribute educational materials and equipment, such as gun locks, to any person or organization requesting the materials or equipment for personal use, or for further distribution for use by gun owners. City staff should collaborate with the Gun Violence Task Force in this effort as necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to inform organizations which request or receive free gun locks through APD's partnership with Project ChildSafe that NSSF has requested that APD not distribute the locks -to -specific organizations that may intend to repackage ~~or misappropriate~~ the locks.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to fully implement Resolution No. 20161215-064 to ensure that APD is distributing Be SMART materials that educate parents on storing guns responsibly and discussing gun safety with other adults.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager will provide a report to City Council by August 1, 2020, on APD's distribution of gun locks and other firearm safety equipment and educational materials, including numbers of locks distributed at events and directly to requestors.