

RESOLUTION NO. 20200206-053

WHEREAS, thousands of Texans die from incidents involving firearms every year, and almost 200,000 Texas children live in homes with unlocked and loaded guns; and

WHEREAS, estimates show that hundreds of thousands of guns were stolen in Texas between 2006 and 2015; and

WHEREAS, the number of guns stolen or lost in Austin almost tripled between 2006 and 2015, and, moreover, between 2013 and 2018, Austin Police Department (APD) reported a total of 4,241 firearms listed as lost or stolen, peaking in 2018; 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 and APD to develop and distribute gun safety brochures and free gun locks at community events; and

WHEREAS, in the 86th Legislative Session, the Texas Legislature budgeted for a Statewide Safe Gun Storage Campaign, but also loosened restrictions on safe storage, including in vehicles parked on school grounds; and

WHEREAS, Texas law does not require a person to have a valid handgun license in order to carry a loaded handgun in a motor vehicle if the vehicle is owned by that person or is under their control; and

WHEREAS, in Austin, a gun is over four times more likely to be stolen from a vehicle than from a residence; and

WHEREAS, in Austin in 2018, stolen firearms were found in fifty-three incidents of aggravated assault, thirty-nine incidents of aggravated robbery, and thirty-four incidents of suicide; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, APD's Crime Intelligence Unit recommended a public education campaign to "alert Austin citizens and visitors to the danger of leaving guns in vehicles"; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Child Fatality Review Team reported that firearms became the primary method of youth suicide in 2015, and in these instances, the firearm was most likely to be owned by a family member; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs reported that 75% percent of Texas veterans' suicides are by firearm; and

WHEREAS, on January 11, 2020, an Austin resident was murdered by a firearm that was stolen in the Austin area; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

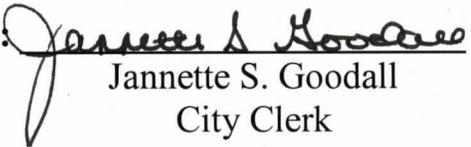
The City of Austin reaffirms its commitment to the safety, health, and welfare of all its residents, including through the promotion of the safe storage and handling of firearms.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to identify funding sources and existing budgeted opportunities for a prospective public service awareness campaign on safe firearm storage. These funding sources and existing budgeted opportunities could include current budget availability in appropriate departments, grant opportunities, potential partnerships, and outside marketing contract estimates.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager will provide a report to Council and the Task Force on Gun Violence by May 1, 2020 with funding options for a public service awareness campaign on safe firearm storage.

APPROVED: February 6, 2020 **ATTEST:** 
Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk