

RESOLUTION NO. 20-004

IN SUPPORT OF THE BE SMART EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN ON RESPONSIBLE FIREARM STORAGE

WHEREAS, an estimated 4.6 million American children live in households with at least one loaded, unlocked firearm;

WHEREAS, every year nearly 360 children under the age of 18 unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else. That is roughly one unintentional shooting per day, and 77 percent of these incidents take place inside a home;

WHEREAS, another 600 children die by gun suicide each year, most often using guns belonging to a family member;

WHEREAS, in incidents of gun violence on school grounds, 79 percent of active shooters have been current students or recent graduates, and 78 percent of shooters under the age of 18 obtained their guns from their own home, a relative's home, or from friends;

WHEREAS, research shows that responsible firearm storage practices are associated with up to an 85 percent reduction in the risk of self-inflicted and unintentional firearm injuries among children and teens;

WHEREAS, there is wide consensus among medical professionals, police chiefs, gun control advocates, and gun rights groups that the use of trigger locks or lock boxes to store unsupervised firearms in the home substantially reduces the likelihood that children or teens will use such firearms to inflict injury and death.

- The International Association of Chiefs of Police recommends that state and local governments mandate safe storage of firearms.
- The American Academy of Pediatrics and other leading medical organizations recommend that if families must have firearms in their homes, the firearms should be stored, locked, unloaded, and separate from locked ammunition.

WHEREAS, California law makes the unsafe storage of firearms where minors may be present a criminal offense;

WHEREAS, across the country lawmakers, community members, and local leaders are working together to implement public awareness campaigns, such as Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America's Be SMART program, that encourage secure gun storage practices and highlight the public safety risks of unsecured guns;

WHEREAS, a Be SMART campaign has recently been launched in Monterey County, with an expert Advisory Panel;

WHEREAS, this Council desires to protect children from accidental or self-inflicted death or injury involving an unsecured firearm; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Pacific Grove determined that the proposed action is not a project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (CCR, Title 14, Chapter 3 ("CEQA Guidelines), Article 20, Section 15378). In addition, CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 includes the general rule that CEQA applies only to activities which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA. Because the proposed action and this matter have no potential to cause any effect on the environment, or because it falls within a category of activities excluded as projects pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15378, this matter is not a project. Because the matter does not cause a direct or any reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change on or in the environment, this matter is not a project. Any subsequent discretionary projects resulting from this action will be assessed for CEQA applicability.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PACIFIC GROVE that it hereby supports the Be SMART public education campaign and desires that all City departments and their employees seize every opportunity to inform our fellow citizens of their duty to responsibly store firearms in their homes.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PACIFIC GROVE this 19th day of February, 2020, by the following vote:

AYES: Mayor Peake, Mayor Pro Tem Huitt, Councilmembers Amelio, Garfield, McAdams, and Smith.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Councilmember Tomlinson.

APPROVED:



BILL PEAKE

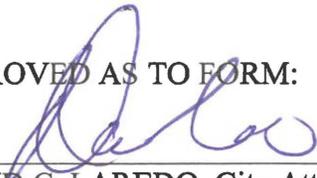
Mayor

ATTEST: 2/20/2020
Dated:



SANDRA ANN KANDELL, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



DAVID C. LAREDO, City Attorney