

FINDINGS IN SUPPORT OF ORDINANCE NO. 2023-17

SAFE STORAGE OF FIREARMS IN RESIDENCES

1. Firearms that are not stored safely may result in accidental firearm injuries and deaths. Utilizing locked containers and firearm safety devices when storing firearms in the home reduces the risk of firearm injury and death, as well as firearm theft.
2. Firearms are the leading cause of death for children in the United States. Between 2015 and 2022, there were over 2,800 unintentional shootings by children age 17 and younger. These shootings resulted in 1,083 deaths and 1,815 nonfatal injuries. (American Academy of Pediatrics, *Guns in the Home: How to Keep Kids Safe* (2023), available at <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/at-home/Pages/Handguns-in-the-Home.aspx>.)
3. Firearm injuries have a significant adverse public health and safety impact nationally, regionally, and locally.
4. Access to firearms increases the likelihood of death by suicide, particularly among children and adolescents. Nine out of ten suicides by firearm in this age group involve use of a firearm from the victim's home or that of a relative. (Society for Research in Child Development, *Access to Firearms Increases Child and Adolescent Suicide* (2020), available at <https://www.srcd.org/research/access-firearms-increases-child-and-adolescent-suicide>.)
5. In 2020, there were 45,222 firearm-related deaths in the United States. More than half of these deaths were suicides and more than 4 out of every 10 were firearm homicides. (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Fast Facts: Firearm Violence Prevention* (2022), available at <https://cdc.gov/violenceprevention/firearms/fastfact.html>.)
6. Safe firearm storage practices help prevent unauthorized access to firearms.
7. Safe firearm storage practices help prevent firearms from being stolen, diverted into illegal markets, and used in gun-related crimes. In an analysis of 23,000 stolen firearms recovered by police officers, the majority of the weapons were found to later be used in crimes such as murders, armed robberies, and kidnappings. (Brian Freskos, *Missing Pieces*, The Trace (2017) available at <https://thetrace.org/2017/11/stolen-guns-violent-crime-america>.)
8. The majority of firearm thefts in the United States are from everyday gun owners. A 2017 study found that the people most susceptible to gun theft are those who own a large number of guns, frequently carry guns outside of their homes, or do not practice safe storage methods in their home. (David Hemenway, Deborah Azrael, and Matthew Miller, *Whose guns are stolen? The epidemiology of Gun theft victims*, Injury Epidemiology 4 (1) (2017), available at <https://inpejournal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s40621-017-0109-8>.)

9. The American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Shooting Sports Foundation, the California Department of Justice, the California Department of Education, the American Psychological Association, the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and many other agencies and organizations recommend the safe storage of firearms.
10. Requiring stored and unsupervised firearms to be safely stored in a locked container or disabled with a firearm safety device does not interfere with or impact a person's ability to lawfully use their firearm.