

Baumb, Nelly

From: Judy Rock <rockjudy1@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 2:17 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: safe storage of firearms

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Greetings City Council members,
I'm writing about item 14, requiring locking up of firearms that are not being carried by the owner or authorized person. I'm actually totally shocked that this isn't required already! For the safety of families and children please implement this requirement ASAP.
thank you,
Judy Rock
3872 Nathan Way, Palo Alto
650-906-4148

Baumb, Nelly

From: Elizabeth Ratner <elizabeth.ratner@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 1:55 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Item 14: colleague's memo on safe storage, December 14, 2020

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We support an ordinance which would require people who own firearms and keep them at home to store them locked up when not carried on their person. Teenagers and children are the primary victims of accidental shootings and suicides using unlocked firearms found at home. This is an alarming public health problem. More than 16 California cities and counties have adopted this kind of ordinance. Thank you for asking the city attorney to draft this local law.

Lisa Ratner
Jim Fox
Palo Alto

Baumb, Nelly

From: Meg Durbin <mdurbin@well.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 1:54 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: safe firearms storage

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Dear PA City Council members
I urge you to approve bills to require safe firearms storage.
Thank you,
Meg Durbin, MD

Baumb, Nelly

From: Stephen Rock <ser84@caa.columbia.edu>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 12:04 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: firearms

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please pass the resolution requiring firearms to be locked up when not being used.

Steve Rock
3872 Nathan way, Palo Alto
ser84@caa.columbia.edu

Baumb, Nelly

From: C. Lewis <clewis222@me.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 11:55 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: safe storage of firearms

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Please pass an ordinance to require safe storage of firearms.

Thanks,
Clinton Lewis
3837 Grove Ave
Palo Alto
650 424 8714

Baumb, Nelly

From: Teri Whitehair <btwhitehair@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 8:40 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: Safe Storage of Firearms Ordinance

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Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

I am a volunteer leader of Moms Demand Action which has a strong presence on the Peninsula.

Thank you for putting a Safe Storage Ordinance on tonight's council meeting. This ordinance would require all firearms in a residence be securely stored in a locked container or disabled with a trigger lock. One small child dies almost every day in this country after finding an unsecured firearm in their own home or in a relative's home or while playing at a friend's house.

Research shows that keeping guns securely stored does NOT hinder self-protection- a gun can be accessed within seconds- but it DOES prevent unintentional deaths of children and teen suicides, by as much as 85% depending on the type of storage.

When considering the penalty for violating the Safe Storage Ordinance, Moms Demand Action supports a civil penalty, rather than a criminal penalty. We suggest a fine or community service.

I urge you to vote for the Safe Storage Ordinance for the safety of our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Teri Whitehair

Baumb, Nelly

From: Hilary Glann <hglann@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 11:45 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: Support for Safe Gun Storage Ordinance

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Dear City Council Members:

As a longtime resident very concerned about accidental injury or death from guns stored at home, in addition to teen suicides, I am grateful to Council Member Cormack and Mayor Fine for proposing a safe storage ordinance to be discussed at Monday's Council meeting.

Over the past few years, cities and counties across California have passed ordinances to fill in gaps in California's state-wide safe storage ordinance without any lawsuits from the NRA. If Palo Alto passes a safe storage ordinance, we will be in very good company, joining:

- Belvedere
- Berkeley
- Cudahy
- Culver City
- Hillsborough
- Los Angeles
- Millbrae
- Moraga
- Morgan Hill
- Oakland
- Orinda
- Palm Springs
- Redwood City
- San Carlos
- San Diego
- San Francisco City and County
- San Jose
- San Marino
- San Mateo County
- Santa Clara County
- Santa Cruz
- Saratoga
- Solana Beach
- Sunnyvale
- Tiburon

Thank you for considering and supporting this ordinance in support of the health and safety of Palo Alto residents.

Hilary Glann

hglann@gmail.com

Baumb, Nelly

From: Emily Jaquette <ebreuner@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 8:40 AM
To: Council, City
Subject: I support the safe gun storage ordinance

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Dear Council -

In working with Brady United, I learned how tragic the availability of unsecured fire arms in the home can be. We have all heard the horror stories of the unnecessary deaths. Please pass a safe storage ordinance to help solve this problem.

Sincerely,
Emily Jaquette
Palo Alto Resident

Baumb, Nelly

From: LWV of Palo Alto <lwvpaoffice@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, December 12, 2020 5:29 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Agenda Item 14: Gun Safety Ordinance
Attachments: LWVPA Gun Safety Ordinance ltr of support.docx

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December 14, 2020

Re: Agenda Item 14: Safe Storage of Firearms, December 14, 2020

Dear Mayor Fine, Vice Mayor DeBois and Palo Alto City Council Members:

The League of Women Voters of Palo Alto strongly supports a city ordinance requiring safe storage of firearms in the home. Unlocked firearms in the home present an overwhelming public health danger, according to reliable public health researchers and legal scholars.^[1]

Millions of children and teens live in homes with loaded and unlocked guns. Without their parents realizing it, most of these children under the age of ten know where in the homes the guns are kept. The risks of suicide, particularly among children and teens, is significantly higher in homes where a firearm is kept loaded and/or unlocked.

Children and teens are also at grave risk of death and injury from unintentional shootings. Studies have shown that 70% of shooting deaths involving children could have been prevented if the firearm had been locked and unloaded. In 2013, more preschoolers were shot to death (82) than police officers (27), according to the Centers for Disease Control and the FBI. In California, between 2004 and 2014, 114 children and teenagers were unintentionally killed with firearms, and approximately 500 committed suicide with firearms.

Nearly 90,000 firearms are stolen each year during home invasions in the U.S. and approximately 13,500 of these firearms are used to commit additional crimes which disproportionately impact communities of color. Most school shootings occur using unsecured firearms that have been taken by the shooter from home or a relative's home.

A city ordinance is needed because current state law is too limited, requiring only that a person who keeps a firearm in a residence take reasonable steps to prevent minors from access. The League believes that this should be strengthened to require a person who keeps a firearm in a residence to store it in a locked box or disable it with a locking device when the person is not carrying the firearm.

Many California cities and counties require gun owners to safely store their firearms when the firearms are not being carried by the gun owner or another authorized user. These jurisdictions include Belvedere, Berkeley, Los

Angeles, Moraga, Morgan Hill, Oakland, Orinda, Palm Springs, San Diego, San Francisco, San Jose, San Mateo County, Santa Cruz, Saratoga, Sunnyvale, Tiburon, and most recently Redwood City and Santa Clara County.

Since 1998, the League of Women Voters has supported regulating firearms for consumer safety. Based on this position, LWV Palo Alto urges the City of Palo Alto to move forward with a safe storage of firearms ordinance.

Thank you for this consideration,

Nancy Shepherd
President

^[1] Giffords Law Center Against Gun Violence, www.giffords.org

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League of Women Voters of Palo Alto

3921 E. Bayshore Road
Palo Alto, CA 94303

Phone: (650) 903-0600

Web: www.lwvpaloalto.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/PaloAltoLeague/

Twitter: www.twitter.com/lwvpaloalto



December 14, 2020

Re: Agenda Item 14: Safe Storage of Firearms, December 14, 2020

Dear Mayor Fine, Vice Mayor DeBois and Palo Alto City Council Members:

The League of Women Voters of Palo Alto strongly supports a city ordinance requiring safe storage of firearms in the home. Unlocked firearms in the home present an overwhelming public health danger, according to reliable public health researchers and legal scholars.¹

Millions of children and teens live in homes with loaded and unlocked guns. Without their parents realizing it, most of these children under the age of ten know where in the homes the guns are kept. The risks of suicide, particularly among children and teens, is significantly higher in homes where a firearm is kept loaded and/or unlocked.

Children and teens are also at grave risk of death and injury from unintentional shootings. Studies have shown that 70% of shooting deaths involving children could have been prevented if the firearm had been locked and unloaded. In 2013, more preschoolers were shot to death (82) than police officers (27), according to the Centers for Disease Control and the FBI. In California, between 2004 and 2014, 114 children and teenagers were unintentionally killed with firearms, and approximately 500 committed suicide with firearms.

Nearly 90,000 firearms are stolen each year during home invasions in the U.S. and approximately 13,500 of these firearms are used to commit additional crimes which disproportionately impact communities of color. Most school shootings occur using unsecured firearms that have been taken by the shooter from home or a relative's home.

A city ordinance is needed because current state law is too limited, requiring only that a person who keeps a firearm in a residence take reasonable steps to prevent minors from access. The League believes that this should be strengthened to require a person who keeps a firearm in a residence to store it in a locked box or disable it with a locking device when the person is not carrying the firearm.

¹ Giffords Law Center Against Gun Violence, www.giffords.org

Many California cities and counties require gun owners to safely store their firearms when the firearms are not being carried by the gun owner or another authorized user. These jurisdictions include Belvedere, Berkeley, Los Angeles, Moraga, Morgan Hill, Oakland, Orinda, Palm Springs, San Diego, San Francisco, San Jose, San Mateo County, Santa Cruz, Saratoga, Sunnyvale, Tiburon, and most recently Redwood City and Santa Clara County.

Since 1998, the League of Women Voters has supported regulating firearms for consumer safety. Based on this position, LWV Palo Alto urges the City of Palo Alto to move forward with a safe storage of firearms ordinance.

Thank you for this consideration,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nancy Shepherd". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Nancy Shepherd
President

Baumb, Nelly

From: Stacey Ashlund <stacey@zachary.com>
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2020 4:34 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Support for safe storage of firearms ordinance

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Council members Fine & Cormack,

Thank you for your "Dear Colleagues" letter, which is agendaized for the Monday 12/14 council meeting.

All council members,

I am involved in 3 different organizations that all support a safe storage of firearms ordinance. They are Palo Alto League of Women Voters Responsible Gun Owners committee, Moms Demand Action (Peninsula & San Jose chapters), as well as Palo Alto PTA Council.

Safe storage of firearms reduces preventable injury & death by guns in the homes. Securing firearms by lock, & storing ammunition separately, reduces access to guns that may fall into the hands of a young person or a person in distress, and prevent it from being used in suicide.

I wish to express my support for this ordinance to Council, and request that the ordinance not include a criminal penalty, and this has been shown to disproportionately harm people of color.

There are more guns in our Palo Alto community than many residents are aware of. It is falsely/naively assumed that Palo Alto homes do not contain guns, though the numbers are not obtainable and can quickly fluctuate. It is particularly important that adults in our community know that they have a role in keeping young people safe by complying with such an ordinance. This education program provided by Moms Demand Action & Everytown for Gun Safety is exemplified in the "Be SMART" program: <https://besmartforkids.org>

Thank you for discussing this ordinance & I respectfully urge your support.

Sincerely,

Stacey Ashlund
4065 Campana Drive
650 494 0355

Baumb, Nelly

From: Bradd Silver <bradd.silver@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2020 1:40 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Safe Storage ordinance

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

I am a volunteer with the Peninsula group of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America which has a strong presence in Palo Alto. Moms Demand Action is a non-partisan grassroots organization made up of both non-gun owners and gun owners with the goal of reducing gun violence and improving gun safety for everyone. We believe the 2nd Amendment can be respected while simultaneously better protecting people through common sense gun legislation.

We are very happy that Palo Alto will be discussing a Safe Storage Ordinance at the next council meeting which would require all firearms in a residence be securely stored in a locked container or disabled with a trigger lock. Safe Storage ordinances decrease accidental shootings by young children, teen suicides, and guns being stolen from homes and used subsequently in crimes.

Research shows that keeping guns securely stored does NOT hinder self-protection- a gun can be accessed within seconds- but it DOES prevent unintentional deaths of children and teen suicides, by as much as 85% depending on the type of storage. All guns sold in California have to be sold with a cable lock.

_Many cities and towns up and down the Peninsula have already adopted a Safe Storage ordinance so we hope that Palo Alto will do the same.

When considering the penalty for violating the Safe Storage Ordinance, Moms Demand Action supports a civil penalty, rather than a criminal penalty. We suggest a fine or community service. This is because we feel people of color may be disproportionately affected by this law and we also think a criminal penalty is unnecessary. We therefore ask that if Palo Alto moves forward with this ordinance, that a civil penalty be adopted.

We, at Moms Demand Action, are very happy to provide you with any additional information or answer any questions you may have as you consider this request. We can also provide you with the ordinances that have passed in other nearby towns and can also meet with your police chief if you feel this would be helpful.

Bradd Silver
Membership Lead, Moms Demand Action California Chapter
955 Rosewood Drive
San Mateo, CA 94401
913-530-2308

Baumb, Nelly

From: Paola Maciocia <paola.peninsula.mda@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2020 2:04 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Safe Storage Ordinance

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Be cautious of opening attachments and clicking on links.

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

I just got the news that the city of Palo Alto Council has a gun storage ordinance discussion on the agenda for this upcoming council meeting on Monday the 14th. As Moms Demand Action long time volunteer and leader of the local Peninsula Moms Demand Action which gathers a numerous group of volunteers up and down the Peninsula including Palo Alto, I am thrilled that Palo Alto Council is discussing such an ordinance.

Research shows that keeping guns securely stored does NOT hinder self-protection- a gun can be accessed within seconds- but it DOES prevent unintentional deaths of children and teen suicides, by as much as 85% depending on the type of storage. Storing firearms in a securely locked container can also prevent guns from being easily stolen in a home robbery. A DOJ- approved safe storage device can be obtained for as little as \$40 so the cost is not at all prohibitive and, in fact, all guns sold in California have to, under law, come with a cable lock. Trigger locks are often given out free at police stations.

When considering the penalty for violating the Safe Storage Ordinance, Moms Demand Action supports a **civil penalty**, rather than a criminal penalty. We suggest a fine or community service. This is because people of color may be disproportionately affected by a criminal penalty and we also think a criminal penalty is unnecessary. Most firearm owners are law abiding and will follow the law if it is simply in place. We believe that having this ordinance on the books will ultimately help to change our culture, much like the seat belt law did in the 1980's.

In the last year many other cities in the Bay Area passed such an ordinance (Millbrae, Burlingame, Hillsborough, San Mateo, Belmont, Redwood City, Portola Valley, Foster City and San Carlos), and we at Moms Demand Action hope that the city of Palo Alto would be able to do the same.

Regards,

Paola Maciocia

Peninsula Moms Demand Action local group lead

email: paola.peninsula.mda@gmail.com

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/PeninsulaMomsDemandAction/>

Baumb, Nelly

From: Kelly Traver <kellytraver@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2020 12:56 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Safe Storage Ordinance

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Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

I am a volunteer with Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America which has a strong presence in Palo Alto. Moms Demand Action is a non-partisan grassroots organization made up of both non-gun owners and gun owners with the goal of reducing gun violence and improving gun safety for everyone. We believe the 2nd Amendment can be respected while simultaneously better protecting people through common sense gun legislation.

We are very happy that Palo Alto will be discussing a Safe Storage Ordinance at the next council meeting which would require all firearms in a residence be securely stored in a locked container or disabled with a trigger lock. One small child dies almost every day in this country after finding an unsecured firearm in their own home or in a relative's home or while playing at a friend's house. Two older children, particularly teens, die every day in this country by suicide from an unsecured firearm they obtain from their home or another family member's home. In addition, 80% of school mass shootings are done by current or former students, using an unsecured firearm obtained from their own home or a relative's home. A Safe Storage ordinance has become more urgent than ever during 2020 given the dramatic rise in gun sales. Combined with more time spent sheltering at home and the increase in financial and emotional stressors, we have seen a shocking 45% increase in unintentional deaths of small children and a 7% increase in teen suicides.

Research shows that keeping guns securely stored does NOT hinder self-protection- a gun can be accessed within seconds- but it DOES prevent unintentional deaths of children and teen suicides, by as much as 85% depending on the type of storage. Storing firearms in a securely locked container can also prevent guns from being easily stolen in a home robbery. A DOJ- approved safe storage device can be obtained for as little as \$40 so the cost is not at all prohibitive and, in fact, all guns sold in California have to, under law, come with a cable lock. Trigger locks are often given out free at police stations.

Some people are under the impression that the California Penal Code (25100) already addresses this issue but it definitely does not. It does not define how to safely store a firearm and it doesn't apply to all homes. For example, parents often hide their guns (feeling this makes them safe) rather than locking them up, but studies show 70% of children know the location of these hidden guns in their own home and many have even handled them. Many cities and towns up and down the Peninsula have already adopted a Safe Storage ordinance so we hope that Palo Alto will do the same.

When considering the penalty for violating the Safe Storage Ordinance, Moms Demand Action supports a civil penalty, rather than a criminal penalty. We suggest a fine or community service. This is because we feel people of color may be disproportionately affected by this law and we also think a criminal penalty is unnecessary. Most firearm owners are law abiding and will follow the law if it is

simply in place. We feel having this ordinance on the books will ultimately help to change our culture, much like the seat belt law did in the 1980's. Towns early on in the process of adopting safe storage ordinances did often adopt a criminal penalty – that is, a misdemeanor-- but more recent towns have adopted a civil only penalty for the reasons stated above. We therefore ask that if Palo Alto moves forward with this ordinance, that a civil penalty be adopted.

We, at Moms Demand Action, are very happy to provide you with any additional information or answer any questions you may have as you consider this request. We can also provide you with the ordinances that have passed in other nearby towns and can also meet with your police chief if you feel this would be helpful.

All my best,
Kelly Traver
Moms Demand Action Volunteer



Baumb, Nelly

From: Alice Smith <alice.smith@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2020 6:57 PM
To: Council, City
Subject: Safe Storage - guns and ammunition

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I want to commend Councilmember Alison Cormack for her Safe Storage memorandum #11865 on the agenda for this Monday.

I trust that the Council will instruct the City Attorney to draw up the appropriate ordinance to require the safe storage of firearms **and ammunition** in residences.

Gratefully,

Alice Schaffer Smith
Channing House
850 Webster Street Apt 520
Palo Alto, CA 94301
650 283 2822

Baumb, Nelly

From: Hamilton Hitchings <hitchingsh@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, December 12, 2020 11:18 AM
To: Council, City
Cc: Jonsen, Robert; Shikada, Ed; Todd Collins
Subject: City Council Safe Gun Storage Ordinance Input

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If the city does decide to proceed with a Safe Storage Ordinance it should adopt the Santa Clara County word for word. I believe this area of regulation belongs at the state level rather than the city level and that the city is too small a jurisdiction for this type of regulation. Palo Alto has a high number of renters, new home owners and in general many folks lead very busy lives here. It is likely many residents will never know this ordinance exists if it is passed.

California already has some of the strongest gun safety regulations in the country. These include making it unlawful to possess a firearm by anyone who has been convicted of or has an outstanding arrest warrant for a felony, as well as a long list of misdemeanors and other risks including narcotics addiction and domestic violence. Thus this ordinance would really only impact law abiding citizens in good standing.

In addition, it is also already a misdemeanor or felony in California if a firearm was not properly stored and a child under the age of 18 obtains and uses it resulting in someone being injured or killed. Risk of injury from accidental firearms discharge, firearm suicide and school shootings by our communities children & teens continue to be a concern by caring adults in our community.

Firearms public safety education will likely have a larger impact on increasing public safety in this area. California Department of Education State Superintendent Tony Thurmond sent a letter in November 2019 to all California school districts requesting they send out a safe gun storage letter to all parents. Many school districts such as Los Angeles and Marin did send out such a letter. PAUSD has not and PAUSD is currently very busy with COVID and does not appear to have the extra bandwidth relative to other priorities. There is an opportunity for the city to fill the gap and/or partner with PAUSD on safe gun storage education. The best time for PAUSD to communicate this info would be in the back to school packet sent out to every family at the start of school in the fall. I've included a link to the California Department of Education's letter to the school districts below and it includes a template letter that could be sent to parents/residents as well as a couple of other links on firearms safety you may find informative and helpful as you discuss this at city council and for city staff who might work on this.

Department of Education Firearm Safe Storage Letter: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/nr/el/le/yr19ltr1120.asp>

California Attorney General's Firearm Safety Tips: <https://oag.ca.gov/firearm/tips>

BeSmart Family Gun Safety Advocacy Group: <https://besmartforkids.org>

Hamilton Hitchings