

Public Comments for School Board Meetings

#443

I would like to provide: *

Written Public Comments

Select the meeting date:* *

June 16, 2022

My public comments are related to: *

Safety/Security

Topic *

Gun Safety

Full Name *

Richard Eugene Merritt

What is your relationship to ACPS? *

Community Member

Upload a copy of your public comments or other supporting documents:



[gunsafetyresolution2.17.22.docx](#) 15.9KB · DOCX

Upload additional information:



[res_2__phac_letter_to_council_gunsafetyresolution_2022.docx](#)
63.2KB · DOCX



Public Health Advisory Commission

PUBLIC HEALTH
ADVISORY COMMISSION

TO: The Honorable Mayor and Members of the
Alexandria City Council

FROM: Andrew Romero, Chair, Alexandria Public
Health Advisory Commission

DATE: May 16, 2022

SUBJECT: Resolution on Gun Safety

Please find attached a Resolution on Gun Safety which was adopted unanimously by the Public Health Advisory Commission at its meeting on February 17 2022. The resolution was prompted by alarming national statistics indicating that firearm purchases had soared in 2020 and 2021 to their highest levels in half a century. More alarming, however, was a press release from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention declaring that firearm injuries recently surpassed car accidents as the leading cause of death for our nation's children.

The Resolution recommends four strategies that represent a proactive approach toward proper and responsible gun safety and firearm storage to avoid circumstances of death, injury and family or community trauma. None of these strategies should require additional authority from the General Assembly.

Sincerely,
Andrew Romero
Chair, Public Health Advisory Commission

Chair, Andrew
Romero

Patricia Rodgers

Allison Minor

Dr. Michael Trahos

Richard Merritt

JeanAnne Mayhan

Lisa Chmiento

Dr. Jessica Hill

Brian Hricik

Melissia Riddy

Sylvia Jones

Jacob Weinberg

Anita McClendon

GUN SAFETY RESOLUTION

Adopted Unanimously by the
Alexandria Public Health Advisory Commission
February 17, 2022

WHEREAS, public safety is an essential responsibility of local government and prevention of threats to public safety is a wise and warranted approach toward ensuring a safe and healthy community environment for the enjoyment of all citizens; and

WHEREAS, more than two million children live in homes in the U.S. with unsecured guns and 1.7 million children live in homes where guns are both unlocked and loaded; and

WHEREAS, studies show that parents often underestimate the extent to which their children know where their household guns are stored and the frequency with which children handle guns while unsupervised; and

WHEREAS, access to a gun is associated with a significant increase in the risk of suicide and child suicides by firearms are responsible for over 500 deaths in the United States each year; and

WHEREAS, a Johns Hopkins University study found that gunshot wounds put an average of 8,300 U.S. children in to the hospital and almost 1,300 children die from gunfire each year;

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, firearm injuries recently surpassed car accidents as the leading cause of death for our nation's children; and

WHEREAS, firearm purchases soared in 2020 and 2021 to their highest levels in half a century, with more than 20 percent of the total gun purchases by first-time gun owners; and

WHEREAS, according to Everytown, the Covid 19 pandemic has intensified the gun violence crisis in Americas; moreover, unintentional shooting deaths by children increased by one-third; and

WHEREAS, studies show that about 75% of shooters under 18 years of age obtained the gun from their home or the home of a relative or a friend; and

WHEREAS, public safety will only grow more vulnerable if the U.S. Supreme Court overturns New York state's law that imposes limits on carrying guns outside the home; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria wishes to take a proactive approach toward proper and responsible gun safety and firearm storage in order to avoid circumstances of death, injury and family or community trauma.

Therefore, be it jointly resolved by the Alexandria City Council and the Alexandria School Board that they seek to jointly promote and sponsor a Gun Safety Campaign focused on promoting proper gun storage through communication efforts with parents and caregivers, health care providers and other interested groups; conduct public service announcements through various forms of media and to promote educational efforts among public safety agencies.

Be it further jointly resolved, that the Alexandria City Council and School Board will (1) encourage health providers, especially pediatricians and primary care physicians and nurses, to inquire of patients whether there is a gun in the home and, if so, if it is locked and stored properly, (2) distribute free gun locks to all interested gun owners; and (3) consider sponsoring a voluntary "Proud to be Gun-Free" campaign, whereby businesses, especially restaurant and bar owners, pledge to encourage gun owners to leave their guns behind when patronizing their establishment.