



CITY OF SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS

Robert K. McCarthy

Acting Salem Mayor

Presented to the Council by Councillor Conard Prosniewski

Secure Firearm Storage Notification Resolution

May 9, 2023

The City of Salem Administration and City Council wish to echo the Salem Public School Committee's efforts, especially including that our highest priority is school safety. While we focus on all areas of safety, this particular resolution has a focus on gun violence prevention through the leadership of the district, information sharing, empowerment, and education of our school community.

Whereas, The safety and well-being of our students, teachers, and staff is a top priority of Salem City Council;

Whereas, In the United States, gun violence is the leading cause of death in children and teens;

Whereas, Evidence strongly suggests that secure firearm storage is an essential component to any effective strategy to keep schools and students safe;

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

Whereas, Every year, roughly 350 children under the age of 18 unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else, about one unintentional shooting per day; and 70 percent of these incidents take place inside a home;

Whereas, 1200 children and teens die by gun suicide each year and over 80 percent of children under age 18 who died by firearm suicide used a gun belonging to a family member;

Whereas, Research shows that secure firearm storage practices are associated with up to a 78 percent reduction in the risk of self-inflicted firearm injuries and up to an 85 percent reduction in the risk of unintentional firearm injuries among children and teens;

Whereas, In incidents of gun violence on school grounds, up to 80 percent of shooters under the age of 18 obtained their guns from their own home or that of relatives or friends;

Whereas the US Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center recommend the importance of appropriate storage of weapons because many school attackers used firearms acquired from their homes;

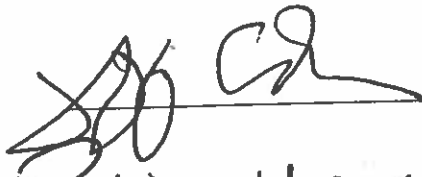
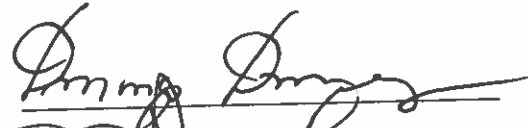


Whereas, Keeping students, teachers, and staff safe from the threat of gun violence should be the responsibility of all adult stakeholders at each of our school sites;

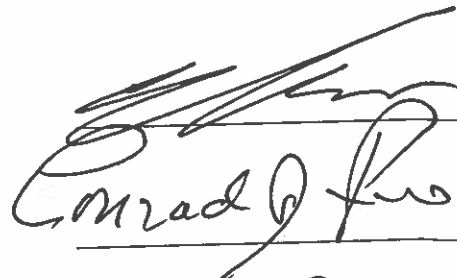
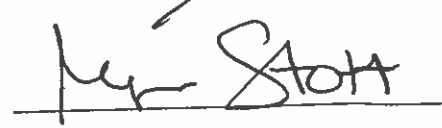
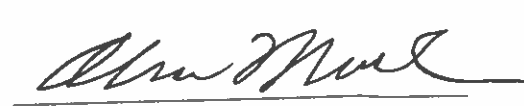

Whereas, Across the country, lawmakers, community members and local leaders are working together to implement public awareness campaigns, such as the Be SMART Program, which is endorsed by the National PTA and encourages secure gun storage practices and highlights the public safety risks of unsecured guns;

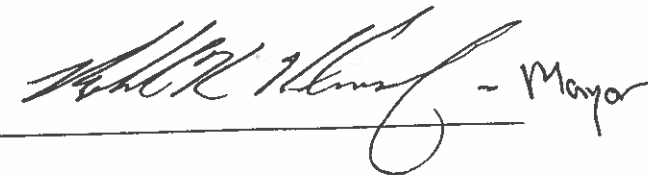
Whereas, Secure storage of firearms is a legal requirement in Massachusetts pursuant to G.L. Chapter 140, sections 131L and 131C, and failure to comply with secure storage laws can lead to criminal prosecution, jail time, fines, and/or revocation of FID card or license, depending on the offense;

Whereas, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends storing firearms unloaded and locked, with ammunition locked separately to reduce risks of injury to children;

Whereas, in order to continue with preventive measures to increase student and school safety we must act now; therefore, be it Resolved, That the Salem City Council Committee and the Mayor will continue to work with local law enforcement agencies, health agencies and non-profit organizations to collaborate and increase efforts to inform District parents and guardians of their obligations regarding secure storage of firearms in their homes and vehicles.


Patricia Haines

Donna Dwyer




Conrad J. Fucini

Mr. Stott

Alan Muel

Caroline Watson-Felt



Mayor

In City Council May 11, 2023

Adopted by a roll call vote of 9 yeas, 0 nays and 1 absent

Approved by the Mayor on May 15, 2023

ATTEST:


ILENE SIMONS
CITY CLERK