



## DISCUSSION ITEM

### Agenda Item # 8

#### PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE

**Meeting Date:** April 27, 2021

**Subject:** Safe Firearm Storage

The following is public correspondence received by the City Clerk's Office after the posting of the original agenda. Individual contact information has been redacted for privacy. This may *not* be a comprehensive collection of the public correspondence, but staff makes its best effort to include all correspondence received to date.

**TO SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS**, prior to the meeting, on matters listed on the agenda please email [PublicComment@losaltosca.gov](mailto:PublicComment@losaltosca.gov) . Your email will be received by the City Council, the City Manager, and the City Clerk

Emails received prior to the meeting will be included in the public record and will be uploaded to the online packet according to the City's established timeline.

**From:** Maureen Griffin <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 22, 2021 8:19 AM  
**To:** City Council <[council@losaltosca.gov](mailto:council@losaltosca.gov)>; Anita Enander <[aenander@losaltosca.gov](mailto:aenander@losaltosca.gov)>; Neysa Fligor <[nfligor@losaltosca.gov](mailto:nfligor@losaltosca.gov)>; Lynette Lee Eng <[leeeng@losaltosca.gov](mailto:leeeng@losaltosca.gov)>; Sally Meadows <[smeadows@losaltosca.gov](mailto:smeadows@losaltosca.gov)>; Jonathan Weinberg <[jweinberg@losaltosca.gov](mailto:jweinberg@losaltosca.gov)>  
**Subject:** Los Altos City Council -- safe firearm storage ordinance on the Agenda for April 27

To Los Altos City Council Mayor Fligor and Council Members  
Please support the safe firearm storage ordinance that you have on the agenda for Tuesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>.  
Thank you  
Maureen Griffin  
Los Altos resident

**From:** Jerry Lopatin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 19, 2021 4:37 PM  
**To:** City Council <[council@losaltosca.gov](mailto:council@losaltosca.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: Regular City Council Meeting

Council,

I have no idea what Agenda item #8 actually represents. It contains no resolution, other than a resolution template from Moms Demand Action. The advance material appears to be only a collection of random information.

For the record, I do not support the Moms Demand Action template, because it goes much further than necessary to correct the issues identified by Councilmember Weinberg on the first page of his packet. Requiring guns to be locked is perhaps a wise move, going slightly beyond California law (as Morgan Hill and Saratoga have done). Requiring guns to be stored locked, unloaded, and away from ammunition is not reasonable.

Thank you.

*Jerry*

Jerry Lopatin  
1059 Fremont Avenue, Los Altos

**From:** [Jonathan Weinberg](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Safe Storage for Guns  
**Date:** Thursday, April 22, 2021 1:34:24 PM

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 22, 2021 1:31 PM  
**To:** [Neysa Fligor](#); [Anita Enander](#); [Lynette Lee Eng](#); [Sally Meadows](#); [Jonathan Weinberg](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Safe Storage for Guns

To the Los Altos City Council —

I strongly support a city ordinance to require safe storage for guns. I count on the council to do the right thing and move quickly to adopt such an ordinance.

Best,  
—Richard

Richard Probst  
46 Woods Lane  
Los Altos CA 94024

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**From** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 21, 2021 7:01 PM

**To:** [Neysa Fligor](#); [Anita Enander](#); [Lynette Lee Eng](#); [Sally Meadows](#); [Jonathan Weinberg](#)

**Subject:** Safe Firearm Storage in Los Altos

Dear Mayor, Vice Mayor and Councilmembers,

I am a Los Altos resident, a physician and a volunteer with Scrubs Addressing the Firearm Epidemic (SAFE). SAFE is a nonprofit organization of physicians, nurses and medical students dedicated to reducing firearm injury through education, research and evidence-based policies. SAFE was founded at Stanford University School of Medicine in 2018 and we now have chapters at over 50 medical centers nationwide. Our website is at [www.standsafe.org](http://www.standsafe.org)

I understand that you are considering a city ordinance requiring firearm owners to store their firearms secured with a locking device or in a safe to prevent unauthorized access. I want to bring to your attention several studies that show that safe firearm storage reduces unintentional childhood injury and adolescent suicide. At the end of this letter I have provided citations and links to three articles about these studies in *JAMA* (Journal of the American Medical Association) and *JAMA Pediatrics*.

California state law is considered fairly strict with respect to firearms. However, I believe it fails to adequately define safe firearm storage, and that local ordinances can help clarify what people should do to store their firearms safely. Penal Code Section 25100(c) states, in relevant part:

[A] person commits the crime of “criminal storage of a firearm in the third degree” if the person keeps any firearm within any premises that are under the person’s custody or control and negligently stores or leaves a firearm in a location where the person knows, or reasonably should know, that a child is likely to gain access to the firearm without the permission of the child’s parent or legal guardian, unless reasonable action is taken by the person to secure the firearm against access by the child.

What does this mean? If I am a firearm owner and I keep my firearm hidden in the top shelf of my closet, is that a location I “reasonably should know” that a child is likely to gain access? What about my bedside table? The attic? Should I reasonably know that my 10-year-old son and his cousin will go up in the attic to play and find my firearm?

Studies show children often know where the firearms are hidden. It would be better to give clear direction about what is considered safe firearm storage. A local ordinance can provide that clarity.

Consider California law for child car restraints in Vehicle Code Sections 27360-27368. The law does not state a person must restrain a child in a manner the person “reasonably should know” would restrain the child in the event of a sudden stop. The law gives specific direction and detail about the car seats that should be used for child restraint. For example, Section 27360(b) defines the type of seat suitable for children under a certain weight and height, incorporating federal motor vehicle safety standards, and Section 27363 provides specifics as to how a child is to be transported in various circumstances, how seats are to be placed and secured, among other things, taking into account the age, height, and weight of the child.

The California firearm storage law, by contrast, lacks such particular guidance on what firearm owners should do. We need more specificity to help the public understand what constitutes safe firearm storage to prevent unauthorized access.

Thank you for your attention. I look forward to discussing this with you further, and to working with you to reduce firearm injury and death in our communities through improved safe firearm storage.

Sincerely,

Susie MacLean, MD  
Los Altos Resident  
SAFE Legislative Affairs Director

#### References:

1. Grossman, D. C., Mueller, B. A., Riedy, C., et al. (2005). Gun storage practices and risk of youth suicide and unintentional firearm injuries. *JAMA*. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/15701912/>
2. Monuteaux, M. C., Azrael, D., & Miller, M. (2019). Association of Increased Safe Household Firearm Storage With Firearm Suicide and Unintentional Death Among US Youths. *JAMA Pediatrics*. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/31081861/>
3. Hooman Alexander Azad, BS; Michael C. Monuteaux, ScD; Chris A. Rees, MD, MPH; *et al.* (2020). Child Access Prevention Firearm Laws and Firearm Fatalities Among Children Aged 0 to 14 Years, 1991–2016. *JAMA Pediatrics*, <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/fullarticle/2761305>