

Resolution No.: 20-563
Introduced: June 18, 2024
Adopted: June 25, 2024

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

Lead Sponsors: Council Vice President Stewart and Councilmember Mink
Co-Sponsors: Council President Friedson, and Councilmembers Sayles, Katz,
Glass, Albornoz, Balcombe, Luedtke, Fani-González, and Jawando

SUBJECT: Montgomery County Commitment to Disseminating Secure Firearm Storage
Information to Parents

Background

1. Evidence strongly suggests that secure firearm storage is an essential component to any effective strategy to keep schools, students, families, and communities safe.
2. An estimated 4.6 million American children live in households with at least one loaded, unlocked firearm.
3. Every year, roughly 360 children under the age of 18 unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else. That's roughly one unintentional shooting per day, and 70 percent of these incidents take place inside a home. Another 1,300 children and teens die by gun suicide each year, most often using guns belonging to a family member.
4. In active shooter incidents in K-12 schools over five decades, 75 percent of active shooters are current students or recent graduates. A United States (U.S) Secret Service report found that three quarters of school shooters acquired their firearm from the home of a parent or close relative.
5. Research shows that secure firearm storage practices are associated with an 85 percent reduction in the risk of unintentional firearm injuries among children when compared to those that locked both firearms and ammunition and those that did not. The U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center recommends the importance of appropriate storage of weapons because many school attackers used firearms acquired from their homes.
6. 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 Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and which

encourages secure gun storage practices and highlights the public safety risks of unsecured guns.

7. Communities across the country have begun to distribute materials to parents and guardians informing them of applicable firearm storage laws and firearm secure storage best practices.
8. Montgomery County Government and its agencies are committed to increasing safety for all in our community and to proactively sharing resources and information with families about best practices and safety measures.

Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following resolution:

1. Montgomery County affirms its ongoing commitment to keep Montgomery County residents in general, and the children of Montgomery County in particular, safe from gun violence and gun deaths.
2. The County Council calls on the Assistant Chief Administrative Officer for Public Safety and Children, Youth and Families (ACAO) or a designee of the ACAO, to work collaboratively with County Government and County agencies, local law enforcement agencies, health agencies, and community-based organizations to collaborate and increase efforts to inform district parents of their obligations and best practices regarding secure storage of firearms in their homes.
3. It is essential that agencies such as the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) and the ACAO work to share information with families about safe gun storage, using all available means including through programs such as Be SMART.
4. The ACAO will work with all childcare facilities, after school program providers, and other child serving community organizations in Montgomery County to share information about secure gun storage, using all available means including through programs such as Be SMART. Where providers receive County funding to provide services, the Council calls on the Executive to require the contractor or grant recipient to disseminate educational information to parents of children in the programs about secure storage of firearms.

This is a correct copy of Council action.



Sara R. Tenenbaum
Clerk of the Council