

RESOLUTION NO. 3079

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, an estimated 4.6 million American children live in households with at least one loaded, unlocked firearm; *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 gun suicides claim the lives of nearly 24,000 Americans each year; *and*

WHEREAS, firearms are the leading cause of death for children and teens in the United States, and every year, 18,000 children and teens are shot and killed or wounded and approximately 3 million are exposed to gun violence; *and*

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has intensified the gun violence crisis in America; *and*

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

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria wishes to take a proactive approach toward responsible gun ownership and safety, including secure firearm storage, in order to avoid circumstances of death, injury, and family and community trauma; *and*

WHEREAS, the Alexandria Public Health Advisory Commission unanimously adopted a Resolution on Gun Safety at its meeting on February 17, 2022, and shared it with Alexandria City Council on May 16, 2022 and the ACPS School Board adopted a Resolution on Gun Safety at its June 2nd meeting; *and*


Therefore, be it resolved by the Alexandria City Council that they seek to work collaboratively with Alexandria schools, businesses, and advocacy organizations to promote and sponsor a gun safety initiative focused on responsible gun ownership and secure firearm storage by promoting and prioritizing communication efforts with parents and caregivers, health care providers, educators, business owners, and other interested groups. These efforts include but are not limited to education and awareness campaigns (including public service announcements and press events), legislative measures, and city and school sponsored resources.

Adopted: June 14, 2022



JUSTIN M. WILSON MAYOR

ATTEST:



Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk