From:	Peg Brownlee
To:	Grp. City Council and City Web Site
Subject:	Gun Safety Courses in Schools Proposal??
Date:	Wednesday, February 3, 2021 6:08:11 PM

Dear City Council Members,
I was shocked to read about the proposed "gun safety courses" being considered for teaching in first through third grade students in Missoula.
First and foremost, it is sponsored by the Montana Shooting Sports Association. This organization appears to have extremist ties, and Gary Marbut at the helm of MSSA. Mr. Marbut posted terroristic threats and radical, extremist comments on Facebook in December. He has a long history as a gun proponent, which is putting it mildly. Please see an article from December 14th in the Montana Post, for instance.
If I had a child in a school that was having ANYTHING to do with this group, I would refuse to let my child participate in this "training". MSSA has an agenda, you can be sure, when offering this "course", stating innocent "safety education". Perhaps it does have some useful information - it probably does. But it is not okay for this information to be obligatory in our educational system from this group!

While it is important for children to know basic gun safety, it is a task best done by a parent. Information could be sent home with a child so the parent can decide if it is appropriate or not (and not from any extremist group!).
In a perfect world, gun safety training (and background checks) would be obligatory when buying a gun license, and hunter safety training when buying a hunting license. This would make sense.

I am NOT an anti-gun activist. I am a proponent of respect for one another, and non-violent conflict resolution. I fear that the pro-gun extremist situation in our country and our state is going to get a lot worse before it gets better. I would feel safer if the city council were not affiliated with MSSA. Unfortunately, we have Montana leaders who are.

It is also alarming to me that you have now a self-named "Freedom Trio" (or something to that effect) on the council. It makes me wonder what other agendas they have for you to consider. Quite alarming. Please be cautious! I know you will be. And those of you who are part of this "Trio", please know that you are not a separate entity of the council. I urge you to work together with the council toward peaceful betterment of our beautiful community.

I appreciate the hard work all of you do on behalf of our residents, and wish you the best.

Thanks for reading my comments.

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