From: outlook_3BB063A0679AE3FD@outlook.com
To: Grp. City Council and City Web Site
Subject: Resolution on Firearm Safety
Date: Monday, February 8, 2021 8:44:04 AM

I urge the City Council to vote against this Resolution.

The Be Safe brochure, as recommended in the Resolution, is inappropriate for firearm safety education in young children. The brochure starts with the "first rules of gun safety …..Don't touch, if a friend plays with a real gun, leave and tell an adult". This message is not accurate. The message should be, "don't touch, leave the area, and tell an adult."

The bulk of the brochure is spent teaching kids *how to handle a gun* – "muzzle direction, finger off the trigger." This is far from the message of "don't touch….." and then encouraging them to look forward to the day when they got their own BB gun and then .22 rifle. That is clearly the wrong message if the goal is really firearm safety.

I'm not an educator, but I informally asked a few local educators about the value of one-time programs in general. The risk is that these tend not to work and may actually make the child more curious and interested. Clearly, any program should be designed by experts in age appropriate curriculum development designed and measured to change behavior.

Regardless, experts agree that the onus is on the adults to keep children safe through safe storage and asking about firearms at the homes where children play.

Thank you.
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