

Legislation Text

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Designating the Week of Sunday November 12, 2017 through Saturday November 18, 2017 as Child Gun Safety Awareness Week in the City of Philadelphia.

WHEREAS, According to federal statistics, there are guns in more than one third of all U.S. households; and

WHEREAS, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia research institute has concluded that 1.7 million children live with unlocked, loaded guns; and

WHEREAS Approximately one of three handguns are kept loaded and unlocked and most children know where their parents keep their guns; and

WHEREAS, As of October 25, 2017, there were 587 shootings of children ranging from new born to age 11 and 2,635 shootings of children age 12-17 in the United States; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. General Accounting Office estimated that 31 percent of accidental deaths caused by firearms might be prevented with the addition of 2 devices: a child-proof safety lock and a loading indicator; and

WHEREAS, In June of 2016, The Philadelphia City Council passed Bill Number 160331 that requires firearms to be kept unloaded and in a locked container if stored in a home where children reside or frequently visit; and

WHEREAS, Among children, eighty-nine percent of unintentional shooting deaths occur in the home. Most of these deaths occur when children are playing with a loaded gun in their parent's absence; and

WHEREAS, Studies have shown that States with child gun access prevention laws have a lower rate of unintentional death than states without such laws; and

WHEREAS, In August of 2017 an 11-year-old boy accidentally shot himself in the face in South Philadelphia; and

WHEREAS, In September of 2017, a 3-year-old boy accidentally shot his uncle while sitting in a car in Center City; and

WHEREAS, On October 21, 2017 a 3 -year-old boy was accidentally shot in the head by his 6-year-old brother in North Philadelphia; and

WHEREAS, It is the responsibility of gun owners to ensure that guns are stored where they are inaccessible to children or other unauthorized persons. Hiding a gun in a closet, drawer, under a seat or similar location is not safe storage; and

WHEREAS, In 2016, in partnership with City Council and numerous advocacy organizations, Sheriff Jewell Williams helped launch the Safe Storage Initiative to provide gun safety education and free gun locks to the

community; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, Hereby designates week of Sunday November 12, 2017 through Saturday November 18, 2017 as Child Gun Safety Awareness Week in the City of Philadelphia.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That an Engrossed copy be presented Sheriff Jewell Williams as evidence of the true and sincere sentiments of this legislative body for his efforts on this issue.