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TO: The Honorable Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director
Legislative Policy Division Staff 

DATE: March 6, 2025

RE: **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF STATE LEGISLATION ON GUN SAFETY TRAINING**

City Council Member Mary Waters has requested the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) to produce a resolution in support of state legislation requiring firearm owners who have children to receive training on how to safely secure firearms so that they cannot be accessed by children.

Attached is the requested resolution. Please let us know if we can be of further assistance.

A Resolution by Council Member Mary Waters

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF STATE LEGISLATION ON GUN SAFETY TRAINING

- WHEREAS** The Detroit City Charter provides that the City “affirms our commitment to the development and welfare of our youth, our most precious treasure;” and
- WHEREAS** According to a recent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) study, approximately half of firearm owners surveyed reported storing at least one firearm loaded and unlocked;¹
- WHEREAS** According to the most recent CDC finalized data from 2022, firearms remain the leading cause of death among children and teens ages 1-17;² and
- WHEREAS** Storing firearms unsafely in a home where children are present poses a grave risk of accidental injury or death to children and makes it far more likely that an individual attempting suicide will succeed;³ and
- WHEREAS** Recognizing this risk, Michigan enacted Public Acts 16 & 17 of 2023, which require gun owners who have, or are likely to have, minors on their property to either store unattended firearms in a locked container or keep the firearm unloaded with a locking device that renders the firearm inoperable to anyone but the owner or an authorized user; and
- WHEREAS** This legislation imposes criminal penalties for failure to properly store firearms, and require licensed firearm dealers to provide information to purchasers informing them of how to properly store their firearms and of the criminal penalties for failing to do so; and
- WHEREAS** Individuals who obtain a Concealed Pistol License (CPL) in Michigan are required to complete a training course, which has been updated to include instruction on compliance with this legislation while other firearm owners and purchasers are not required to receive such training; and
- WHEREAS** Given the inherent danger that improperly stored firearms pose to our youth, the literature provided by firearm dealers may be insufficient in educating the public and the criminal penalties for violating the law may only act as a future deterrent after a minor has already gained access to a firearm; and
- WHEREAS** Owning a firearm is a serious responsibility, and the state of Michigan should take every possible opportunity to educate firearm owners to ensure that they act accordingly and that there will be consequences for failing to live up to their responsibility; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT,**
- RESOLVED** Councilmember Mary Waters and the Detroit City Council hereby strongly encourages the Michigan legislature to create a legal requirement that, prior to purchasing a firearm, an individual must pass a training course regarding the safe storage of firearms to prevent children and minors from accessing them; **NOW BE IT FINALLY**
- RESOLVED** That the Detroit City Clerk provide a copy of this resolution to the Detroit delegations of both the Michigan State House and Senate, in addition to Governor Gretchen Whitmer.

¹Friar NW, MerrillFrancis M, Parker EM, Siordia C, Simon TR. Firearm Storage Behaviors Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Eight States, 2021–2022. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2024.

² <https://publichealth.jhu.edu/center-for-gun-violence-solutions/michigan>

³ Webster, D., et al., JAMA Network, "Association Between Youth-Focused Firearm Laws and Youth Suicides", August 2004

