



May 25, 2021

Dear Mayor DuBois, Vice Mayor Burt and Council Members:

The League of Women Voters of Palo Alto thanks the City Council for directing the city staff in December 2020 to draft an ordinance requiring the safe storage of firearms at home. This is an urgent matter of public safety. A safe storage ordinance would require firearms at home to be stored unloaded and locked when unattended. California law does not currently require these specific steps. Many California cities and counties have enacted safe storage laws.

Children and teens are disproportionately victims of suicides, accidental, and intentional shootings from unsecured firearms. Safe storage laws have reduced injuries and deaths from these types of shootings, especially suicides.

The COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown have worsened mental health for many people, heightening the risk of injuries or death by firearms in our communities.

It has been nearly six months since the City Council directed the writing of the ordinance. We acknowledge the council has many important issues to deal with. We write today to urge you to make the adoption of a safe storage of firearms ordinance a priority.

Thank you for your work on this issue so far.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Liz Kniss". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Liz Kniss
President