

14-1553

MOTION

Every year in the United States, over 16,000 people are treated for unintentional gunshot wounds and injuries. In 2013, more than five children under the age of 12 were killed each month at the home of a family member or friend by guns that were improperly stored and secured. In addition, murders and suicides committed by children far too often involve a firearm that belongs to an adult family member who improperly stored it in the household.

Research has shown that storing guns in a locked container or using a trigger lock and keeping the gun unloaded reduces the risk of injuries and suicide by 70 percent. However, while California requires that safety locks be included with guns manufactured, sold, or transferred in the state, state law does not require that all firearms actually be disabled with a trigger lock or stored in locked containers when not in use.

In 2007, the City of San Francisco adopted an ordinance requiring handguns to be stored in a locked container or secured with a trigger lock when not in use or carried by the owner. That ordinance was challenged on Second Amendment grounds, and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals unanimously upheld the ordinance. The Court further found that there is extensive evidence that properly storing and locking guns significantly reduces the risk of accidental injuries and deaths.

The unsafe storage of handguns is an important public health and safety issue. An ordinance requiring that all handguns be properly secured by a locked container or a trigger lock when not in use will reduce the risk of injuries, suicides and violent crimes, especially those involving children, and it will make irresponsible gun owners more accountable for their conduct.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct the City Attorney to prepare an ordinance requiring gun owners to either store their firearms in a locked container or disable it with a trigger lock when not in use, modeled after the City of San Francisco's ordinance.

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