

P R O C L A M A T I O N

SMART Week – August 26-30, 2024

WHEREAS, Guns are the number one killer of children and teens in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Oak Park is committed to creating a safe environment contributing to the safety and well-being of our children; and

WHEREAS, almost every single day, a child gets their hands on a gun and unintentionally kills or injures themselves or someone else in the United States; and

WHEREAS, research shows that one of the best ways to protect children and teens from accessing guns is to implement secure firearm storage practices; and

WHEREAS, research shows that the most effective way to prevent children from accessing firearms is making sure all guns are stored unloaded, locked, and separate from ammunition; and

WHEREAS, there are steps we can all take, gun owners and non-gun owners alike, to make sure kids can't access guns and put themselves and others in danger; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 54 percent of gun owners don't lock all of their guns securely and an estimated 4.6 million children live in a home with at least one unlocked and loaded gun in the United States; and

WHEREAS, when guns aren't properly stored, tragedy can strike — whether it's a child finding a firearm and injuring or killing themselves or someone else, or someone stealing it and using it to commit crime in our communities; and

WHEREAS, per the Village Code, it is unlawful for any person in Oak Park to keep or possess any firearm in a home or vehicle unless such firearm is secured by a locking device; and

WHEREAS, protecting public safety in the communities they serve is a mayor's highest responsibility; and

WHEREAS, schools, hospitals, state agencies and community organizations are committed to their crucial role in reducing injuries and deaths by promoting secure gun storage and safety; and

WHEREAS, SMART Week raises awareness and promotes efforts to educate the public about secure gun storage; the Village of Oak Park commends Be SMART, a program developed by the Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund, and all involved in their endeavor to keep communities safe.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Vicki Scaman, President of the Village of Oak Park and Board of Trustees, declare August 26-30 to be SMART Week in the Village of Oak Park.

DATED this 27th day of August, 2024.

Vicki Scaman
Village President

ATTEST

Christina M. Waters
Village Clerk