



Proclamation

Gun Safety Awareness Month

WHEREAS, unsecured firearms pose a significant safety risk, particularly to children, and when firearms are not stored safely and securely and are accessible to unsupervised minors, the risk of injury or death increases substantially; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, approximately 350 children gain access to a loaded firearm each year and unintentionally shoot themselves or another person; and between 2024 and 2026, Cook Children's Hospital treated 121 firearm-related injuries, the majority of which were unintentional and occurred in the home; and

WHEREAS, when children unintentionally discharge a firearm and injure another person, the victim is most often a sibling or friend; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, the United States Surgeon General identified firearm violence as a critical public health crisis in the United States; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 7 million minors in the United States live in homes with at least one loaded and unlocked firearm, and research shows that between 70 and 90 percent of firearms used in youth suicides, unintentional shootings involving children, and school shootings carried out by individuals under the age of 18 are obtained from the home or the homes of relatives or friends; and

WHEREAS studies suggest that even modest increases in the number of American households that securely store firearms could prevent nearly one-third of youth firearm deaths resulting from suicide and unintentional injury; and

WHEREAS, providing communities with education, resources, and support to practice responsible firearm handling and secure storage is a meaningful and actionable step toward creating safer homes, neighborhoods, and communities throughout our city, county, and state.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EVERMAN, TEXAS, that August, 2026, is hereby proclaimed as "GUN SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH" in the City of Everman, Texas, and the City Council encourages all citizens to promote responsible gun ownership, secure firearm storage, and community education to help prevent firearm-related injuries and deaths among children and families.

Honorable Mayor Ray Richardson