

SMART WEEK

AUGUST 26-30, 2024

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

WHEREAS Buncombe County 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 protecting public safety in the communities they serve is one of the Board of Commissioners 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, Buncombe County 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, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners declare **August 26 – 30** to be **SMART Week** in Buncombe County.

This 20th day of August, 2024.

Brownie Newman, Chairman
Buncombe County Board of Commissioners