

City of Fayetteville, Arkansas

113 West Mountain Street

Fayetteville, AR 72701

(479) 575-8323



Fayetteville Youth Advisory Council Agenda

Thursday, August 28, 2025

6:00 PM

City Hall Meeting Room 101

Council Members

Members

Alyosha Wood

Aniruth Satish

Blythe Heimer

Elis Prassel

Ellyette Ceola

Jay Hong

Mia Alansari

Simra Rana

Mayor Molly Rawn

City Clerk Treasurer Kara Paxton

Deputy City Clerk Chanci Fondren

Meeting Information:

Call to Order

Roll Call

Proposed Agenda Additions

A. New Business

A.1. Approval of the August 7, 2025 Minutes

A.2. Presentation from Aniruth Satish.

A.3. Initiatives for 2025-2026

B. Unfinished Business

B.1. Safe Storage Resolution

C. Announcements

D. Adjournment

Alyosha Wood

Aniruth Satish

Blythe Heimer

Elis Prassel



Ellyette Ceola

Jay Hong

Mia Alansari

Simra Rana

Council Member D'Andre Jones
City Clerk Treasurer Kara Paxton
Deputy City Clerk Courtney Spohn

**City of Fayetteville Arkansas
Fayetteville Youth Advisory Council Meeting
August 7, 2025**

A meeting of the Fayetteville Youth Advisory Council was held on August 7, 2025, at 6:00 PM in Room 111 of the City Administration Building Located at 113 West Mountain Street, Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Call to Order

Roll Call

Present: Alyosha Wood, Blythe Heimer, Elis Prassel, Jay Hong, and Mia Alansari. Aniruth Satish and Simra Rana were absent. Ellyette Ceola was present at 6:08 PM.

Proposed Agenda Additions: None

New Business

A.1. APPROVAL OF THE MAY 29, 2025 FAYETTEVILLE YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES.

Approval Of The Fayetteville Youth Advisory Council Meeting Minutes Of May 29, 2025. A Motion To Approve The May 29, 2025 Minutes Was Made By Council Member Blythe Heimer And Seconded By Council Member Mia Alansari. It Was Approved By A Vote Of 5-0.

Unfinished Business

B.1. SAFE STORAGE RESOLUTION

The Fayetteville Youth Advisory Council Discusses The Resolution And The Flyers That Will Be Involved With It. A Motion To Move The Resolution To The Next Meeting Was Made By Council Member Blythe Heimer and Seconded By Council Member Jay Hong. The Motion Was Approved By A Vote Of 6-0.

Announcements

C.1. UPCOMING PRESENTATION FROM ANIRUTH SATISH

C.2. INITIATIVES FOR 2025-2026

Adjournment: 6:24 PM

DRAFT: School Boards Secure Storage Notification Resolution for States without Secure Storage Laws

Whereas, Evidence strongly suggests that secure firearm storage is an essential component to any effective strategy to keep schools and students safe;

Whereas, An estimated 4.6 million American children live in households with at least one loaded, unlocked firearm;

Whereas, Every year, roughly 350 children under the age of 18 unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else. That's nearly one unintentional shooting per day, and 70 percent of these incidents take place inside a home;

Whereas, Another 1,200 children and teens die by gun suicide each year, most often using guns belonging to a family member;

Whereas, In incidents of gun violence on school grounds, 75 percent of active shooters were current students or recent graduates;

Whereas, Research shows that secure firearm storage practices are associated with up to an 85 percent reduction in the risk of self-inflicted and unintentional firearm injuries among children and teens;

Whereas, The U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center recommends the importance of appropriate storage of firearms because 76 percent of school shooters used firearms acquired from the homes of parents or close relatives;

Whereas, Across the country, lawmakers, community members, and local leaders are working together to implement public awareness campaigns, such as the Be SMART program, which is endorsed by the National PTA and which encourages secure gun storage practices and highlights the public safety risks of unsecured guns;

Whereas, School districts across the country have begun to proactively send materials home to parents and guardians informing them of applicable firearm storage laws and firearm secure storage best practices,

Whereas, Keeping students, teachers, and staff safe from the threat of gun violence should be the responsibility of all adult stakeholders at each of our school sites;

Whereas, In order to continue with preventative measures to increase student and school safety we must act now, now therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Board directs the Superintendent and staff to update the Student Handbook to include information about the importance of secure storage of firearms and that the best practice for secure gun storage is to keep all guns unloaded, locked up, and separate from ammunition;

Resolved further, That the Board directs the Superintendent to create an appropriate letter, in English and Spanish, to parents and guardians that explains the importance of secure gun storage in preventing minors from accessing guns, and that the best practice for secure gun storage is to keep all guns unloaded, locked up, and separate from ammunition, to be included in annual registration materials at each school site, and requiring a signature acknowledging awareness of secure gun storage responsibilities, and, be it finally,

Resolved, That the Board and the Superintendent will continue to work with local law enforcement agencies, health agencies, and non-profits to collaborate and increase efforts to inform District parents about secure storage of firearms in their homes.

Parent/Guardian:

Providing our students and staff in the Fayetteville Public School District with a safe educational environment remains one of our top priorities. We are all aware of incidents of gun violence in our surrounding communities and across the nation.

Studies of all types of school-based gun violence across decades all point to the same significant point of intervention – **addressing students' unauthorized access to guns in the home**. For example, a recent Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center study of targeted school violence incidents from 2008 to 2017 found that 76 percent of the firearms were obtained from the home of a parent or close relative.

Unsecured guns in the home pose a risk to students beyond gun violence in schools. Every year, nearly 350 children under the age of 18 unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else. That's roughly one unintentional shooting per day. Almost 1200 children die by gun suicide each year. In the overwhelming majority of these incidents, the gun used was one that belonged to someone in their home.

One study found that 87 percent of kids know where their parents' guns are kept, and 60 percent have handled them. Research shows that secure firearm storage practices are associated with up to an 85 percent reduction in the risk of self-inflicted and unintentional firearm injuries among children and teens. Storing firearms securely protects any child in the home as well as students throughout the school district and community.

You can [learn more](#) and download helpful resources, including a secure storage fact sheet, talking to your children about guns, and facts and resources on child firearm suicide, at BeSMARTforKids.org/resources.

_____ I have read and understand the importance of secure firearm storage in my home and the importance of asking about secure firearm storage in homes that my child visits.

Parent or Guardian Signature

Parent or Guardian Printed

Date

UNLOAD, LOCK, AND SEPARATE: SECURE STORAGE PRACTICES TO REDUCE GUN VIOLENCE

Three-year-old Brayden Heath found his mother's handgun in the living room of their home in Anchorage, Alaska. Brayden was playing with the gun when it discharged, shooting him in the head. He was taken to a local hospital and pronounced dead later that day.¹

Introduction

There are an estimated 393 million civilian-owned firearms in the United States,² and more than one-third of homes contain at least one gun.³ Responsible gun owners can make our homes and communities safer by storing their firearms unloaded and locked, with ammunition kept in a separate place, to prevent access by children and other people who are at risk of harming themselves or others. Research shows that these storage practices can play a vital role in reducing the risk of gun violence, particularly among children, due to unintentional shootings and gun suicides.⁴

The bottom line is this: Storing firearms unloaded, locked, and separate from ammunition prevents access and saves lives.

What is secure firearm storage?

Experts agree. In order to prevent access, secure gun storage practices should include three methods employed in combination—unloading the ammunition, locking the firearm, and storing the firearm and ammunition in separate locations.⁵



UNLOAD

Gun owners should remove all ammunition from the firearm, including removing any chambered rounds

LOCK

Unloaded firearms should be secured with a firearm locking device, such as a cable lock, or in a locked location like a safe or lock box. Locking devices, safes, and lock boxes are equipped with keys, combinations, or biometric technology that limit access. *Remember: Firearm locks do not prevent gun theft.*

SEPARATE

Ammunition should be stored separately from the firearm in a secure location.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) concludes that the absence of guns from homes is the most reliable and effective measure to prevent suicide, homicide, and unintentional firearm-related injuries to children and adolescents. But if there are guns in the home, AAP notes that storing guns unloaded and locked, with ammunition kept in a separate place, can mitigate the risk of child firearm injury.⁵

Key Findings

Access to unsecured firearms contributes to gun violence among children and teens. Brayden's tragic story is all too common.⁶ Every year, nearly 360 children under the age of 18 unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else. That's roughly one unintentional shooting per day, and more than 70 percent of these incidents take place in or around a home.⁷ More than 700 children die by gun suicide each year,⁸ most often using guns belonging to a family member.⁹ Unsecured firearms also fuel gun violence outside the home. In incidents of school violence, the US Secret Service found that three-quarters of school shooters acquired their firearm from the home of a parent or close relative.¹⁰

We are all safer when guns are stored unloaded, locked, and separate from ammunition. One study found that households that locked both firearms and ammunition were associated with a 78 percent lower risk of self-inflicted firearm injuries and an 85 percent lower risk of unintentional firearm injuries among children, compared to those that locked neither.¹¹ Another study estimated that if half of households with children that contain at least one unlocked gun switched to locking all their guns, one-third of youth gun suicides and unintentional deaths could be prevented, saving an estimated 251 lives in a single year.¹²



Despite the risks to safety, the majority of gun owners do not practice secure gun storage.

While millions of responsible gun owners follow recommended storage practices, an estimated 54 percent do not lock all of their guns, let alone store them unloaded, locked, and separate from ammunition.¹³ Gun owners with children in the home are slightly more likely to lock all of their guns,¹⁴ but an estimated 4.6 million American children live in households with at least one loaded and unlocked firearm.¹⁵

Contrary to popular belief, gun storage devices do not prevent owners from readily accessing their guns.

There is a common myth that storage devices negate the self-defense purpose of owning a gun by putting time-consuming barriers between the gun owner and their means of defense. The reality is that there are many affordable options for secure gun storage that provide owners with access to guns in a matter of seconds while still preventing access by children and people at increased risk of harming themselves or others.¹⁶ Further, it is possible that unsecured guns may actually *increase* the likelihood of crime and violence through an increased risk of gun theft. Each year, more than 200,000 guns are stolen—the majority from cars—and many are funneled into the underground market, where once-legally-owned firearms can be transferred to people with dangerous histories.¹⁷

Guide to Secure Gun Storage Devices

Secure gun storage can be a lifesaver. It can prevent theft and access by children, unauthorized users, and anyone who may pose a danger to themselves or others. The best device for you is the one that is most appropriate for the circumstances in your household.



Full-Size Gun Safe

Storage of multiple guns in one place. Biometric lock more secure than key or passcode.

\$200–\$2,000

- ✓ Prevents access by children
- ✓ Prevents access by unauthorized users
- ✓ Prevents theft (if secured to a structure in home)
- ✓ Enables fast access



Lock Box/Locker

Smaller and lighter than safe. Biometric lock more secure than key or passcode.

\$25–\$350

- ✓ Prevents access by children
- ✓ Prevents access by unauthorized users
- ✓ Provides secure vehicle storage
- ✓ Enables fast access



Console/Vehicle Gun Safe

For storage in a vehicle. Biometric lock more secure than key or passcode.

\$50–\$350

- ✓ Prevents access by children
- ✓ Prevents access by unauthorized users
- ✓ Prevents theft (if secured to a structure in car)
- ✓ Provides secure vehicle storage
- ✓ Enables fast access



Gun Case

For home or in-transit storage of one firearm. Uses external lock.

\$10–\$150

- ✓ Prevents access by children
- ✓ Prevents access by unauthorized users
- ✓ Enables fast access



Trigger Lock

Locks trigger of single weapon. Never use with loaded gun. May be dismantled with minimal tools and skills, so not as effective with older children and teens.

\$10–\$75

- ✓ Prevents use by small children
- ✓ Enables fast access



Cable Lock

Cable runs through action of single weapon to prevent firing. Ammunition must be removed for lock use. May be dismantled with minimal tools and skills, so not as effective with older children and teens.

\$0*–\$50

- ✓ Prevents use by small children
- ✓ Enables fast access

*Often provided free with firearm purchase.



BeSMARTforKids.org

Recommendations

Gun owners understand that with rights comes responsibility, and promoting secure firearm storage is integral to public safety. Community members should work together to encourage recommended firearm storage practices.

Community members and local leaders should encourage secure firearm storage through outreach to gun owners and general public awareness campaigns. Researchers, clinicians, and gun owners should work together to develop messaging and recommend storage options that are relevant to local values and context.²⁰

Research suggests that clinicians can positively influence secure storage practices, especially when they provide free storage devices.²¹

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