



Rio Arriba
Board of County Commissioners

Resolution No. 2015-017

COMMISSIONERS

Danny J. Garcia
Chairman
District III

Barney Trujillo
District I

Alfredo L. Montoya
District II

COUNTY MANAGER

Tomas Campos, III

Resolution No. 2015-017

**TO CREATE A GUN SAFETY PROGRAM THROUGH THE USE OF PUBLIC SERVICE
ANNOUNCEMENTS ON PUBLIC VENUES IN RIO ARRIBA COUNTY**

WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) has concluded that firearm-related injury and death to children is a significant health problem. AAP recognizes the importance of education to reduce the death and injury of children 0-19; and

WHEREAS, a 2013 study by the Children's Defense Fund revealed that a child or teen dies or is injured by guns every 30 minutes in the United States. In 2010, 18,270 children and teens died or were injured by guns at a rate of fifty incidents each day. In 2009, firearm related deaths in the United States accounted for 1 in every 3 child deaths; and,

WHEREAS, one of the strongest predictors of adolescent suicide is a gun in the house (Brent 2-1-). For the last two decades, suicide rates in New Mexico have been nearly double the aggregate U.S. rates – with firearms the number one method of choice. A 2004 study conducted by New Mexico Hurts revealed that suicide was the leading cause of death in 10-34 year olds in the state; and,

WHEREAS, AAP has determined that firearm availability in homes plays a large role in youth suicide while laws reducing child access are associated with a lower rate in adolescent suicide;¹ and,

WHEREAS, in 2011, National Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance revealed that 5.1% of students in grades 9 through 12 carried guns in the past month. In 2005, a survey determined that 16% of New Mexican students in 9-12 grades carried a gun to school in the prior month; and

WHEREAS, a 2006 survey and analysis revealed the startling fact that in American homes with children 13 to 17 years of age, firearms remained unlocked 41.7% of the time,² while a 2007 study revealed that 64.5% of all unintentional firearm fatalities took place in a home or an apartment with the most common occurrence being victims playing with a gun (29.7%), and 14.3% showing a gun to another person.

¹ Webster, DW, Vernick, JS, Zeoli AM, Manganello JA. Association between youth-focused firearm laws and youth suicides. JAMA 2004; 292 (5):594-601.

² Johnson RM, Miller M, Vriniotis M, Azrael D, Hemenway D. Are household firearms stored less safely in homes with adolescents? Analysis of a national random sample of parents. Arch Pediatr Adolesc Med. 2006;160(8):788-792.

WHEREAS, a multi-site study has conclusively shown that keeping guns locked and unloaded prevents 70% or more of child/teenage unintentional injuries and suicides (with both hand guns and long guns);³ and,

WHEREAS, a recent trial demonstrated that safe storage campaigns with gun safety distribution would be both feasible and effective at limiting household exposure to unlocked and loaded guns;⁴ and

WHEREAS, the implementation of Public Service Announcements on busses and benches in conjunction with educational programs geared towards public awareness as to the dangers of unlocked guns and the effects on children are a necessary addition to the safety of Rio Arriba residents; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Rio Arriba County desires to establish this program throughout Rio Arriba County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF RIO ARRIBA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS that the County of Rio Arriba gun safety public service announcement campaign be established.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, if determined successful, the County of Rio Arriba will continue to implement gun safety public service announcements and educational programs.

SIGNED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED THIS 9TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2014.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RIO ARRIBA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO**

**Danny J. Garcia, Chairman
Commissioner, District III**

**Barney Trujillo
Commissioner, District I**

**Alfredo L. Montoya
Commissioner, District II**

ATTEST: _____
Moises A. Morales, Jr. Rio Arriba County Clerk

³ Grossman DC, Mueller BA, Riedy C, et al. Gun storage practices and risk of youth suicide and unintentional firearm injuries. JAMA. 2005;293(6):707-714

⁴ Grossman DC, Stafford HA, Koepsell TD, Hill R, Retzer KD, Jones W. Improving firearm storage in Alaska native villages; a randomized trial of household gun cabinets. Am J Public Health; (202) 102(suppl 2):S291-S297.

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