From: Mary Mulcaire Jones
To: Grp. City Council and City Web Site
Date: Friday, February 5, 2021 12:02:55 PM

Dear Council Members:

I am writing to ask you to vote NO on the Montana Shooting Sports Association resolution on firearm education and safety for children.

As a mother of 6 children, an educator and now grandmother to 6 grandchildren, I can say with great authority that the notion that children can be trained to *be so good about following the rules of gun safety and safe gun handling rules*(MSSO brochure) is a fanciful idea that goes against the science of brain development.

Children have little sense of future consequences, indeed little sense of action/consequence, related to their immature brain development. The pre-frontal cortex, the seat of "executive function" does not mature until the individual is in their mid-20's. The ability to manage emotional reactions, impulse control and other complex behavioral performances, are developmental skills related to development of the pre-frontal cortex. This development happens primarily during adolescence and peaks around 25 years of age.

Keeping children safe around guns is the responsibility of adults, not children! For this reason, I ask that you vote no on this ill-conceived resolution.

Respectfully,
Mary Mulcaire-Jones
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