



12650 DETROIT AVENUE 44107 216-529-6055  
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Lakewood City Council  
JOHN LITTEN, PRESIDENT  
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**Ward Council**  
KYLE BAKER, WARD 1  
JASON SHACHNER, WARD 2  
JOHN LITTEN, WARD 3  
CINDY MARX, WARD 4

Issued 03/13/23

## **PUBLIC NOTICE – PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

The Public Safety Committee will meet Monday March 20, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in the Auditorium of Lakewood City Hall at 12650 Detroit Avenue. The meeting is open to the public.

Individuals with disabilities who require accommodations for participation in meetings must request accommodations at least 3 business days ahead of the scheduled meeting. Contact Michelle Nochta at (216) 529-5906 [michelle.nochta@lakewoodoh.net](mailto:michelle.nochta@lakewoodoh.net).

This meeting will be livestreamed on the City's website at the following link:

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[www.lakewoodoh.gov/councilvideos](http://www.lakewoodoh.gov/councilvideos)

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### **PUBLIC COMMENT PROTOCOL**

The public is invited to comment on agenda items in person or by submitting a written comment in advance of the meeting using the eComment platform available [HERE](#). New users must create an eComment account.

### ***The agenda is as follows:***

Approval of the minutes of the January 17, 2023 meeting of the Public Safety Committee.

Communication from Councilmembers Baker, Kepple, and Marx regarding Safe Gun Storage – Be SMART. (*Referred to Public Safety 2/21/23*)

Kyle Baker, Chair  
Jason Shachner, Cindy Marx; Members  
**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**



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February 21, 2023

**Re: Safe Gun Storage – Be SMART**

Dear Colleagues,

Secure firearm storage is an essential part of home and community safety. With more guns in more homes and cars due to a surge in gun sales over the past two years, it is more important than ever for parents, community leaders, and caregivers to know how secure gun storage protects children. Tragically, during the COVID-19 pandemic there has been a rise in unintentional shootings by children and gunfire on school grounds. And in 2020, gun suicide among children ages 17 and under reached the highest rate in more than 20 years. Unimaginably, firearms became the leading cause of death among children in the United States. Storing firearms securely can help prevent these terrible tragedies and keep our kids safe.

A program of the Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund, the Be SMART framework is designed to help parents and adults normalize conversations about gun safety and take responsible actions that can prevent child gun deaths and injuries. Lakewood Be SMART volunteers have been rolling out a plan to build awareness about the importance of safe gun storage through presentations in our community. The Be SMART acronym stands for:

- **Secure** all guns in your home and vehicle;
- **Model** responsible behavior around guns;
- **Ask** about the presence of unsecured guns in other homes;
- **Recognize** the role of guns in suicide; and
- **Tell** your peers to be SMART.

Lakewood Be SMART volunteers made presentations to the Lakewood Council of PTAs and the Lakewood Board of Education in the Fall of 2022 and last spring met with Lakewood City School District. The feedback has been positive thanks to its practical message: keep guns locked and stored separate from ammunition and ask about the presence of guns in the homes and vehicles of friends and family members. The goal is to normalize the conversation about safe gun storage in Lakewood and to make Lakewood a state model in this regard. The Be SMART leadership team is Patricia Barley, Stacie Ross, and Melissa Meany. They are currently focused on identifying presentation opportunities and channels for distributing Be SMART links and materials at events and through community organizations and venues. Be SMART now has six trained volunteers who will be able to make presentations starting in March 2023. We request that this communication be referred to the Public Safety Committee to allow the volunteers to give a presentation on the Be SMART program to raise awareness about this critical issue that can quite literally save lives.

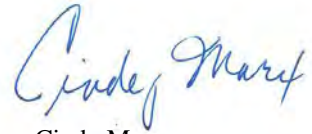
*Sincerely,*



Kyle Baker  
Councilmember, Ward 1



Sarah Kepple  
Councilmember At Large



Cindy Marx  
Councilmember, Ward 4