County of Los Angeles
Sheriff's Department Headquarters
4700 Ramona Boulevard
Monterey Park, California 91754-2169

LEROY D. BACA, SHERIFF

April 19, 2005

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**PARTICIPATION IN PROJECT CHILDSAFE
AN INITIATIVE OF THE NATIONAL SHOOTING SPORTS
FOUNDATION TO PROMOTE FIREARMS SAFETY
(ALL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Authorize and approve the participation of the Sheriff's Department in Project Childsafe.

2. Authorize the acceptance of one thousand (1000) sets of initially donated firearm safety materials in support of Project Childsafe and the acceptance of additional program materials as may be made available.

3. Upon the Board of Supervisors' approval, instruct the Executive Officer of the Board to send a letter to Project Childsafe, 330 Broadway, 2nd Floor, Albany, New York 12207, communicating the County's decision to participate in the program.

PURPOSE OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION

Project Childsafe is an initiative of the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF). It seeks to promote firearms safety by distributing free firearm safety locking devices, along with educational materials. Project Childsafe is funded by a United States Department of Justice grant. This action will allow the Sheriff's Department to distribute gun locks and associated educational materials to residents of Los Angeles County.

JUSTIFICATION

A substantial number of County residents possess firearms within their homes. Each firearm has the potential to cause harm if inappropriately handled. This hazard is greatly increased if there are young children in the home. The hazard presented by the improper storage of firearms can be mitigated through the use of security devices and education. Project Childsafe seeks to provide both.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

Participation in this program promotes Strategic Goals #1, Service Excellence, and #5, Children's and Families' Well-Being. Participation further demonstrates the Sheriff's Department's commitment to community service and safety.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There are no direct costs associated with participation in the program. The gun locks and associated educational materials will be donated to the County by the program sponsor. The Sheriff's Department intends to use presently funded resources to accomplish the distribution.

No financing is involved.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

NSSF has indicated that due to the fact that it has agreements with law enforcement agencies across the country, it is not able to specifically indemnify the County or to comply with specific insurance requirements. NSSF indicated that it has taken the following precautions to ensure the safety of the locks it distributes. Each supplier of locks is required to meet or exceed the minimum testing requirements established by the California Department of Justice concerning firearm safety devices (California Code of Regulations §§ 977.10 - 977.90). All firearm locks distributed under Project Childsafe are California Department of Justice approved and listed on California's Roster of Firearms Safety Devices Certified for Sale. All firearm locks comply with the American Society for Testing and Material's (ASTM) Standard Safety Specifications for Non-Integral Firearm Locking Devices (F2369-04). NSSF has submitted insurance certificates to the County indicating that it carries commercial general liability insurance of $2,000,000 per occurrence, and $2,000,000 general aggregate, and its distributor in California also carries insurance and indemnifies NSSF.

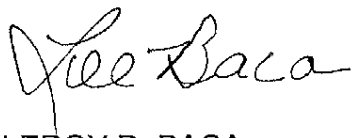
The Sheriff's Department will require each person receiving a lock to execute an agreement to release the County from any liability associated with the locks.

CONCLUSION

This is an opportunity for the County, in partnership with the sponsors of Project Childsafe, to better educate our residents of the dangers associated with firearms, and to better ensure against accidents involving firearms.

Upon your Board's approval, please send an adopted copy of this letter to the Sheriff's Department's Field Operations Support Services Unit, 4700 Ramona Boulevard, Room 106, Monterey Park, California 91754.

Sincerely,



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