

Good Afternoon, my name is Devereaux Smith, I live at 6690 Yount Street. I know you all and you have my thanks for the work you do guiding our Town.

I am here to speak in favor of the proposed Safe Storage ordinance under consideration. I was raised in Texas, where men were men, women drank bourbon and branch and everyone had guns. It was as much a given as going deer or rattle snake hunting. But, the requirement for safety was front and center and just common sense. The guns were locked up, everytime. Using the guns was intentional, purposeful and most of all careful.

As a young adult in Chicago's worst neighborhoods, I worked with the police on a regular basis as a crisis counselor with rape victims in emergency rooms. I was around guns on a regular basis. I mention this to make it clear that I know there is a place for guns, but only if used safely and with respect.

We all know the crisis our country faces in the fight against gun violence. We have lived it right here, up close and very personal. I've had an assault weapon pointed right at me, as close as from here to the desk. That is personal. Our town was traumatized, my family is scarred. We can't change those events and while that shooting wasn't the safe storage issue we are here to talk about today, it is a compelling reminder that we can do something, we are not powerless.

We can take a step and we can say that WE WILL use all the tools at our disposal to keep our children, our citizens, our families and each other as safe as possible.

I have heard the opponents arguments but am here to say that if we have an additional tool in this fight we have a responsibility to use it. I am confident the Town of Yountville and its leaders are brave enough to take such an important step.