

Proclamation



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF HORRY
CITY OF NORTH MYRTLE BEACH

SMART WEEK
AUGUST 24-31, 2025

WHEREAS, guns are the number one killer of children and teens in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the city of North Myrtle Beach is committed to creating a safe environment contributing to the safety and well-being of our children; and

WHEREAS, almost every single day, a child gets their hands on a gun and unintentionally kills or wounds themselves or someone else in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the most effective way to prevent children from accessing firearms is by making sure all guns are stored unloaded, locked, and separate from ammunition; and

WHEREAS, there are steps we can all take, gun owners and non-gun owners alike, to make sure kids can't access guns and put themselves and others in danger; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 4.6 million children live in a home with at least one unlocked and loaded gun in the United States; and

WHEREAS, when guns aren't properly stored, tragedy can strike; and

WHEREAS, protecting public safety in the communities they serve is the Mayor's highest responsibility; and

WHEREAS, schools, hospitals, state agencies, and community organizations are committed to their role in reducing injuries and deaths by promoting secure gun storage and safety; and

WHEREAS, **SMART** Week raises awareness and promotes efforts to educate the public about secure gun storage through five simple steps to help prevent shootings by children: **Secure** all guns in your home and vehicles; **Model** Responsible behavior around guns; **Ask** about the presence of unsecured guns in other homes; **Recognize** the role of guns in suicide; **Tell** your peers to be **SMART**. The City of North Myrtle Beach commends *Be SMART*, a program developed by the Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund, and all involved in their endeavor to keep communities safe.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Marilyn Hatley, Mayor of the City of North Myrtle Beach, do hereby proclaim August 24-31, 2025, as "**SMART WEEK**" to raise awareness and promote efforts to educate the public about secure gun storage and encourage all residents to understand the importance of gun safety.

Done, ratified, and passed, this 18th day of August 2025.

Marilyn Hatley, Mayor

ATTEST:

Allison K. Galbreath, City Clerk

