

For Immediate Release

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Ripon Police Department and School District Partner To Provide Free Firearm Safety Kits

RIPON, Wis. — The City of Ripon Police Department (RPD) and Ripon Area School District (RASD) are partnering to provide 200 free gun lock kits and safety materials to be distributed to the Ripon community through Project ChildSafe. Community members may pick up a FREE firearm safety kit from the Police Department/City Hall during normal business hours beginning December 21. Project ChildSafe is a nationwide program committed to promoting genuine firearms safety through the distribution of safety education messages and free firearm safety kits to communities across the U.S.

School Resource Officer and Community Liaison Lindsey Michels commented, “Secure gun storage—storing guns locked, unloaded, and separate from ammunition can save children’s lives.” The COVID-19 pandemic has created new challenges for parents. Children are spending more time at home. The boredom and isolation they may be feeling could pose additional risks to their safety. “Our goal is to have firearm owners be safe and responsible by securing all guns they may have in their home to prevent accidents and keep firearms out of the wrong hands” stated SRO/CLO Michels.

According to Project ChildSafe, more Americans are buying guns for different reasons, ranging from personal protection to target and sports shooting. “Regardless of the reason why someone would choose to buy a gun, there must be a commitment to store firearms responsibly when not in use so the firearm cannot be picked up by a child, stolen, or accessed by someone who may want to harm themselves. The district recognizes the benefit of providing access to free gunlocks for everyone,” commented Superintendent Mary Whitrock. Project Childsafe has additional free resources available on their website at projectchildsafe.org.

Any comments or questions, please contact Superintendent Mary Whitrock at (920) 748-4600 or whitrockm@ripon.k12.wi.us.

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