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April 20, 2007

BPC #07-0148

The Honorable Public Safety Committee City of Los Angeles c/o City Clerk's Office City Hall, Room 395 Los Angeles, CA 90012

Attn: Sharon Gin

RE: COUNCIL FILE NO. 06-1185 REGARDING PROHIBITING THE IMPROPER

DISPOSAL OF GUNS AND AMMUNITION

At the regular meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners held Tuesday, April 17, 2007, the Board APPROVED the Department's report relative to the above matter.

This matter is being forwarded to you for your approval.

Respectfully,

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

DONNA BASULTÖ

Acting Commission Executive Assistant

Enclosure

c: Chief of Police

INTRADEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

REVIEWED

March 29, 2007 8.8 WJB #07-0013

TO:

FROM:

CHARD M. TEVANK W

APR 1 1 2007

1C#07-01

Chief of Police

POLICE COMMISSION

SUBJECT: CITY COUNCIL MOTION RELATIVE TO PROHIBITING THE IMPROPER

DISPOSAL OF GUNS AND AMMUNITION

The Honorable Board of Police Commissioners

## RECOMMENDED ACTION

1. That the Board approve and transmit this report to the City Council, Public Safety Committee, relative to prohibiting the improper disposal of guns and ammunition.

## **BACKGROUND**

In December 2006, the City of Los Angeles passed an ordinance requiring gun owners to report to law enforcement the loss or theft of a gun within a specific period of time. This law was intended to address the difficulties encountered by law enforcement when tracing guns used during the commission of a crime. However, concerns have been expressed that despite the ordinance, tracing a gun back to the original owner has been difficult because the gun owner can claim that the gun was disposed of in a trash receptacle. Clear regulations to properly dispose of guns and ammunition would eliminate this loophole.

The Department was requested by the City Council, Public Safety Committee, to assist the City Attorney in drafting an ordinance prohibiting the improper disposal of guns and ammunition. Additionally, the Department was requested to provide information to the public on how to properly dispose of unwanted guns and ammunition.

## **DISCUSSION**

Lieutenant Steven Nielsen, Officer in Charge, Gun Section, Gang Operations and Support Division (GOSD), is working with Assistant City Attorney Debra L. Gonzales, Los Angeles City Attorney's Office, to draft a new ordinance prohibiting the improper disposal of guns and ammunition.

The Department recognizes that all firearms and ammunition are inherently dangerous and if improperly disposed of, could end up in the wrong hands and/or involved in criminal activity. The Department believes that a safe and proper way for the public to dispose of unwanted firearms and ammunition is to surrender the items to any one of the 19 geographic Area stations. All firearms and ammunition voluntarily surrendered to the Department will be destroyed.

The Honorable Board of Police Commissioners Page 2 8.8

The public will be notified of the proper procedures through the Department's Website and Blog. A press release will also be distributed by the Department's Media Relations Section to all local media outlets. Additionally, geographic Area Senior Lead Officers will also be provided with the information for distribution throughout the City and at various community meetings.

If you have any questions, please contact Captain Greg R. Hall, Commanding Officer, GOSD, at (213) 485-2700.

Respectfully,

WILLIAM J. BRATTON

Chief of Police

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

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Approved APR 1 7 2007 Secretary