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December 19, 2024

BPC #24-329

The Honorable City Council
City of Los Angeles, Room 395
c/o City Clerk's Office
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Honorable Members:

RE: RESPONSE TO PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE RELATIVE TO THE RESOURCES
NEEDED TO HOST GUN BUYBACK EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE CITY –
COUNCIL FILE NO. 24-1012

At the regular meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners held Tuesday, December 17, 2024, the Board APPROVED the Department's report relative to the above matter.

This matter is being forwarded to you for approval.

Respectfully,

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maria Silva".

MARIA SILVA
Commission Executive Assistant II

Attachment

c: Chief of Police

INTRADEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

DS 12/12/24
24-329

December 11, 2024

8.4

TO: The Honorable Board of Police Commissioners

FROM: Chief of Police

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE RELATIVE TO THE RESOURCES NEEDED TO HOST GUN BUYBACK EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE CITY- COUNCIL FILE NO. 24-1012

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

1. That the Board of Police Commissioners (Board) REVIEW and APPROVE the Los Angeles Police Department's response to the Public Safety Committee relative to the resources needed to host gun buyback events throughout the City of Los Angeles (City).
2. That the Board TRANSMIT this response to the City Council.

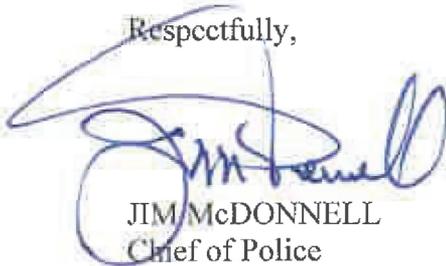
DISCUSSION

On September 17, 2024, the City Council adopted the attached report from the Public Safety Committee instructing the Los Angeles Police Department to consult with the Mayor's Office of Gang Reduction and Youth Development and report to Council with the necessary resources needed to host gun buyback events at all bureaus across the City.

Gang and Narcotics Division (GND) reviewed the Public Safety Committee Report relative to the resources needed to host gun buyback events throughout the City and is providing a report in the form of a fact sheet detailing the resources needed to host these events effectively.

If you should have any questions, please contact Deputy Chief Alan Hamilton, Chief of Detectives, at (213) 486-8440.

Respectfully,



JIM McDONNELL
Chief of Police

**BOARD OF
POLICE COMMISSIONERS**
Approved 12/17/24
Secretary *Mara Seba*

Attachments

FACT SHEET

PUBLIC SAFETY MEETING REPORT ON GUN BUY BACK EVENTS

OVERVIEW:

On September 17, 2024, the City Council adopted the attached report (Council File No. 24-1012) from the Public Safety Committee instructing the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD/Department), in consultation with the Mayor's Office of Gang Reduction and Youth Development (GRYD), to report to Council with the necessary resources needed to host gun buyback events at all bureaus across the City, as outlined in the report. The report was to include the following: police personnel needed to conduct a gun buyback event, potential locations, financial resources needed for buyback incentives, and other City department resources.

BACKGROUND:

The Gun Buyback program began in 2009 as an initiative of GRYD in partnership with the Department. The Gun Buyback program is anonymous and pays up to \$100.00 for a handgun, rifle, or shotgun and up to \$200.00 for an assault weapon. The theory behind the Gun Buyback is that every gun collected enhances public safety by reducing the possibility of it being stolen, illegally transferred or otherwise put into the hands of individuals prohibited from owning firearms or suffering from a mental health crisis. Many law enforcement agencies conduct gun buybacks in order to get unwanted guns out of the home, but also to heighten public awareness that these firearms have the potential to lead to increased gun violence within our communities.

The City of Los Angeles Gun Buyback initiative is part of GRYD's violence reduction strategy, which also includes their Summer Night Lights Program. The gun buyback occurs at locations throughout the City where individuals can surrender their firearms, completely anonymous, no questions asked. All firearms collected are destroyed shortly after the gun buyback event. Under no circumstances has the LAPD resold or redistributed any of the firearms collected as duty weapons.

In collaboration with the LAPD and with support from local news and media outlets, faith-based and community-based organizations, the Citywide Gun Buyback initiative has collected over 18,192 unwanted firearms, of which 731 were deemed to be assault weapons per California Department of Justice standards. The firearms were anonymously turned into Department personnel in return for gift cards of various denominations.

Personnel Needed:

Since 2009, the optimal number of personnel required to staff this event has been no less than one Officer in Charge (OIC), 10 Gun Unit personnel, one sergeant, two senior lead officers, area cadets for traffic control purposes, 6-10 uniformed officers, two undercover officers (UC) in plain cars, two Department of Transportation officers, and six persons assigned to the administrative duties of providing gift cards and tallying firearms (generally GRYD personnel that distribute gift cards to community members). The event usually runs from 0800-1300 hours.

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Financial Resources Needed:

The funding provided for gun buyback events is provided by GRYD. Generally, the buyback events are hosted at two locations, Operations-Valley Bureau (OVB) and Operations-South Bureau (OSB), and have historically been provided with approximately thirty to fifty thousand dollars in various gift card denominations. The gift cards provided have been from various businesses, including Target, Amazon, and various grocery store chains. The gift cards are distributed in various denominations (\$100.00-\$200.00) based on the type of firearm turned in (Handgun, Shotgun, Rifle, Ghost Gun, Assault Weapons, etc.).

Potential Locations:

The first consideration in selecting a location for the gun buyback is to ensure it is at least 1,000 feet away from a school, in compliance with Penal Code Section 626.9 (a) Gun-Free Zone Act of 1995. Another consideration is that the location has ingress and egress to easily move traffic without majorly impacting the movement of normal street traffic. Lastly, that the location has ample space to set up an area to receive firearms, render firearms safe, an administrative location for the dispersal of gift cards, a Code-Alpha location, a designated bomb area clear from residents or participating community, and an area for officials and media to conduct a press conference. Each location requires enough personnel to ensure safe operations, determined by location and number of participating divisions.

Locations that have been used in the past:

- Exposition Park Green Lot, 3986 S. Hoover Street, Los Angeles (OSB)
- Van Nuys Masonic Center, 14750 Sherman Way, Van Nuys (OVB)
- Valley Traffic Division, 7870 Nolan Place, Panorama City (OVB)
- New Hope Baptist Church, 5200 S. Central Ave, Los Angeles (OCB)
- Frank Hotchkin Memorial Fire Academy Training Center, 1700 Stadium Way, Los Angeles (OCB)
- LAPD Ahmanson Training Center, 5651 W. Manchester Ave Los Angeles (OWB)
- Wilmington Chamber of Commerce, 544 N. Avalon Blvd, Wilmington (OSB)

Other Resources Needed:

- Department approval to hold the event in agreement with the Mayor;
- Department & Mayor's Office approval of location(s);
- Notification to Detective Bureau and the bureau(s) of event location;
- Sanitation request for black trash cans (minimum 10 per location);
- Traffic sign request through DOT or Traffic Division;
- Clearing barrels;
- 15.2 to Bureau of event location, request for personnel;
- 15.2 to Information Technology Bureau for laptops used to process firearms;

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- 15.2 to Motor Transport Division, Evidence and Property Management Division (EPMD) or Supply Division for box truck;
- 15.2 to Emergency Services Division for generator, cones, and extension cords;
- 15.2 to Supply Division for tables, chairs, and E-Z Up's;
- Notification to EPMD of event day and request Destruct date;
- City Attorney Indemnification Form for non-city-owned locations;
- Operational Plan / Event Action Plan;
- Gun Buyback Flyer (English & Spanish);
- Press Conference and media advertising;
- Posting of flyers at area Divisions and the Department's social media pages;
- Prepare equipment boxes with tape, stationary, firearm-type paper printouts to designate the type of firearms (Assault Weapon, Pistol, Rifle, Ammunition, Black Powder, etc.);
- Ensure the location will be unlocked for the day of the event;
- Arrive 2-3 hours prior to the start of the event for set-up;
- Conduct briefing with all personnel;
- Brief tactical team and designate the Code-Alpha area;
- Brief on explosive devices and designate an area for Bomb Squad;
- Brief UC officers of outside event firearm illegal solicitation;
- Designate a Public Relations Officer or have Media Relations Division assigned;
- Designate Command Post Area for major occurrence;
- Ensure only Gun Unit Firearm Experts handle and clear all firearms;
- All firearms are cleared at CLEARING BARRELS;
- Secure collected weapons and post an officer to keep persons from handling or approaching; firearms without consent from the OIC;
- Provide firearm count every hour on the hour to the staff issuing gift cards and the Commanding Officer of GND (note: numbers provided are preliminary numbers and are finalized once they are listed on a Property Report, days following the event);
- Cross-reference hourly count with onsite GRYD personnel who are distributing gift cards to community members to ensure the accuracy of the count;
- Run the event until the end time; this allows people to turn in firearms if they wish to do so without receiving a gift card;
- Secure all firearms in the Box Truck and have several officers follow the firearms to a secure police facility;
- Provide preliminary firearm count to GND CO; and,
- Secure firearms until the day of processing (Box trucks are locked, secured, and parked at EPMD loading docks with 24/7 CCTV recording.

The list above will assist with the organization and execution of a gun buyback in the City of Los Angeles, and to ensure the officers working the event are safe from persons disrupting the collection of firearms and to protect the community from illegal firearm sales and/or incidents where a shooting can occur.

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Processing:

- Determine if there will be a press conference and where;
- Separate assault weapons, machine guns, short barrel firearms, other dangerous weapons, and unique firearms for a press conference (if needed). Press Conference – Minimum of eight officers for security. Clear weapons prior to the conference;
- Set up tables, chairs, and laptop processing areas for firearms;
- Take all uncleared weapons to Forensic Science Division's (FSD) Firearms Analysis Unit (FAU) for clearing, and return when cleared;
- Take all ammunition to EPMD's warehouse at FSD;
- Separate and tape all magazines with loading port facing up;
- Obtain DR / RMS number for each event location;
- Run all firearms through the Automated Firearms System (AFS) and exclude from destroying, stolen, lost, institutionalized, crime evidence guns. Note: Under Observation, firearms should be destroyed, but notification to agency reporting should be given. Under Observation is generally reported in AFS for Armed Prohibited Persons System (APPS) cases of firearms not recovered by law enforcement from prohibited persons;
- After completion of Property Reports, conduct the final count and conduct verification with an EPMD Supervisor;
- Relinquish all firearms to EPMD for Destruction;
- Complete final stats on the "GND Gun Unit - Mayor's Gun Buyback" sheet for command staff distribution;
- Assist with destruction if requested by EPMD;
- After destruction, ensure all firearms are entered "destroyed" into AFS; and,
- Turn in all reports to Records and Identification.

Should you have any questions concerning this fact sheet, please contact Detective III Patrick Hoffman, Gang and Narcotics Division, Gun Unit, at (213) 486-5360.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT relative to the resources needed to host gun buyback events throughout the City.

Recommendation for Council action, pursuant to Motion (Rodriguez - Lee):

INSTRUCT the Los Angeles Police Department, in consultation with the Mayor's Office of Gang Reduction and Youth Development, to report to Council with the necessary resources needed to host gun buyback events at all bureaus across the City. The report should include the following information:

- a. Police personnel needed to conduct a gun buyback event.
- b. Potential locations, including an outline of any geographical restrictions that may exist.
- c. Financial resources needed for buyback incentives.
- d. Other City department resources, if any.

Fiscal Impact Statement: Neither the City Administrative Officer nor the Chief Legislative Analyst has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted

SUMMARY

At the meeting held on September 10, 2024, your Public Safety Committee considered a Motion (Rodriguez - Lee) relative to the resources needed to host gun buyback events throughout the City.

After an opportunity for public comment was held, the Committee moved to approve the recommendation contained in the Motion, as detailed above. This matter is now forwarded to the Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
RODRIGUEZ:	YES
LEE:	YES
PARK:	YES
PRICE:	YES
SOTO-MARTINEZ:	YES

LV 9.11.24

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-