

# MEMORANDUM



**Police Department**

**To:** Honorable Mayor and City Council

**Date:** March 19, 2018

**From:** Joe Cefalu, Police Captain

**Via:** David Carmichael, Chief of Police

Brian Loventhal, City Manager

**Subject** Gun Buyback Information

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## PURPOSE

Provide information to the City Council related to the feasibility of hosting a Gun Buyback Program.

## BACKGROUND

At the City Council meeting on February 20, 2018, Council Member Gibbons inquired about the possibility of the City of Campbell hosting a Gun Buyback Program. The Council asked staff to look into what is required for such an event.

## DISCUSSION

Staff conducted research on this issue by contacting the County of Santa Clara and the City of San Jose. These two entities have partnered to host gun buybacks in recent years. The City of Campbell has never hosted such an event.

These events have been primarily sponsored by the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office, who has used a variety of funding sources including donations and asset forfeiture money to pay for the surrendered guns. Citizens are given \$100 for turning in a handgun, shotgun, or a rifle, and \$200 for an assault weapon. These programs have shown to generate significant participation from the public. For example, a February 2013 event produced over 1,100 surrendered firearms resulting in over \$150,000 in payments distributed. Clearly, funding is the greatest hurdle to overcome.

In addition to identifying a significant funding source, preparations must be made to staff the event to ensure that it is handled in a safe manner. This can require the participation of multiple agencies in order to provide a sufficient number of qualified officers to handle each of the firearms safely.

Also, consideration must be given to address the logistics of securely storing the volume of weapons until they can be sent out for destruction. Given the limited space in our evidence storage room, this would require the participation of multiple agencies.

Once all the firearms are turned in and the event is concluded, each firearm needs to be run in the Automated Firearms System (AFS) to determine if the gun is stolen. If a gun is found to be stolen, it must be returned to the rightful owner. Also, we need to make sure that firearms are sent to the District Attorney's crime lab for comparison into the Integrated Ballistic Information System (IBIS) to see if the gun was used in a crime.

Staff considered the option of hosting an event exclusively for City of Campbell residents. However, this option is not feasible because the entire premise of this program is centered on a concept of complete amnesty for people surrendering weapons. When the firearms are collected and funds distributed, no identifying information or identification is required or even requested. Due to this factor there would be no way to limit this program to City of Campbell residents only. In other words, the event is open to the general public no matter where they live, and organizers must be prepared to handle and pay for a substantial volume of weapons to avoid having to turn away large numbers of people wishing to participate.

### NEXT STEPS

While it is possible to host a gun buyback event in Campbell if sufficient funding is allocated, we would need several months to prepare for such an event. This would include finding partner agencies, securing a venue, addressing weapon storage issues, and further evaluation of staff time needed at the completion of the event for processing each firearm.

As an alternative to hosting the event in Campbell, staff spoke with a community prosecutor at the District Attorney's Office, who is responsible for putting on the gun buyback programs for the County. We learned that it would be possible for Campbell to join their existing efforts. The District Attorney's Office will be hosting another gun buyback event in partnership with the San Jose Police Department in December of 2018. We were offered an opportunity to participate in this event if we can contribute sufficient funds (amount not yet determined) and help provide staffing. This partnership would significantly reduce the logistics of hosting our own event in Campbell.