



CITY OF MARTINEZ

**CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
June 19, 2013**

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Gary D. Peterson, Chief of Police
SUBJECT: Participation in Contra Costa County District Attorney's Gun Buyback Program - \$5,000 Budget Transfer to Facilitate Participation
DATE: May 30, 2013

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive a report from the police department on the initiation of actions currently being conducted, both locally within the community of Martinez and more regionally in Contra Costa County, designed to increase the safety of our community by increasing public awareness and enhancing law enforcement response to incidents of violence.

Consider adopting a resolution authorizing (1) the Finance Manager to make a budget transfer from unassigned fund balance to the police special revenue fund in the amount of \$5,000 and (2) provide a cash donation in the amount of \$5,000 to the Contra Costa County District Attorney's Gun Buyback Program to help facilitate the removal of handguns and assault rifles off the streets of Contra Costa County.

BACKGROUND:

On December 14, 2012, the country was shocked yet again by a mass shooting incident. This time it was in Newtown, Connecticut. Due to the young ages of victims at Sandy Hook Elementary School, along with other recent mass shooting incidents across the country, this was a seminal event that initiated national discussions on gun control. Many national-level topics require protracted discussions and deliberations, and gun control is no different. The issue of gun control is very complex with no "easy fix" in sight and it is likely that these discussions will be on-going for a number of months. However, local government can take immediate action to improve safety within their communities. The City of Martinez and the Martinez Police Department have initiated a number of activities designed to increase awareness and safety and to assist in coordinating responses to incidents of violence.

Action items include:

- Training for a Tactical Response by Police Officers to Violent Incidents at Schools and within the Community
- Supervisor and Manager Critical Incidents Response Training
- Safety Awareness Training to City and School Staff
- Reviewing School Safety Plans and Assisting with School Lockdowns and Emergency Drills
- Developing a Joint Police/Fire/EMS Training with focus on Medical Evacuations/Rescue
- Additional Other FEMA Standards Training
- Creating Primary Facility Site Pre-Mapping

- Participation in local Gun Buyback Program
- Tactical Weapons Training
- Consolidate and regionalize SWAT

Contra Costa County District Attorney Mark Peterson has organized a voluntary Gun Buyback Program in response to several recent mass shooting incidents across the United States. District Attorney Peterson has already collected \$40,000 in donations from various donors to be used to incentivize the Gun Buyback Program and has asked for local support from the various participating cities. Some larger jurisdictions have suggested that they will contribute funds ranging from \$5,000-\$25,000 to help facilitate the program. Several other Contra Costa County law enforcement agencies have expressed a desire to be partners and collaborate on this Gun Buyback Program by providing staff and locations to accept the weapons.

Staff believes that a \$5,000 donation would be appropriate based on our community's likely participation. If donors receive a \$200 gift card per gun, our donation would be depleted after 25 guns are bought back. Consequently, this seems like a reasonable donation.

A tentative date of August 3, 2013 has been set for the Gun Buyback Program. A committee made up of police chiefs or their designees will address logistics such as publicizing the event, determining drop off locations and the type and kind of gift cards that will be offered. Conceptually, it was agreed that a good faith effort would be made to provide gift cards for the donors' city of residence.

Staff believes this Gun Buyback Program is worthy of the time, cost and effort because it will reduce the opportunity for a firearm to be used in a criminal, negligent and/or tragic manner.

If the resolution is approved, staff will provide an oral or written report to detail the upcoming event. Additionally, staff will also provide a written after action report detailing the outcomes and expenditures.

FISCAL IMPACT:

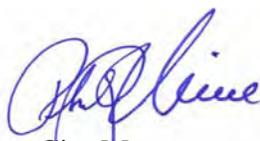
The fiscal impact to the City will be a cash donation in the amount of \$5,000 from unassigned fund balance.

ACTION:

Approve resolution authorizing (1) the Finance Manager to make a budget transfer from unassigned fund balance to the police special revenue fund in the amount of \$5,000 (2) authorize the Chief of Police to provide a cash donation in the amount of \$5,000 to the Contra Costa County District Attorney's Gun Buyback Program to help facilitate the removal of handguns and assault rifles off the streets of Contra Costa County.

Attachment:
Resolution
Gun Buyback Program

APPROVED BY:


City Manager

RESOLUTION NO. -13

AUTHORIZING TRANSFER OF \$5,000 FROM UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE TO THE POLICE SPECIAL REVENUE FUND AND AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF OF POLICE TO PROVIDE A CASH DONATION TO THE CONTRA COSTA COUNTY GUN BUYBACK PROGRAM ON ITS BEHALF IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,000

WHEREAS, the Contra Costa County District Attorney organized a voluntary Gun Buyback Program in response to several recent mass shooting incidents across the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Contra Costa County District Attorney collected \$40,000 in donations from various donors to be used to incentivize the Gun Buyback Program; and

WHEREAS, on May 20, 2013, the Martinez Police Department, along with several other Contra Costa County law enforcement agencies expressed a desire to participate in the Gun Buyback Program by providing staff and locations to accept the weapons; and

WHEREAS, it has been agreed that the Contra Costa County District Attorney's Gun Buyback Program needs local support to help purchase gift cards that will be exchanged for handguns and assault rifles; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of Martinez believes that the Gun Buyback Program is a worthy cause as it reduces the opportunity for a firearm to be used in a criminal, negligent and/or tragic manner.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Martinez hereby authorizes the Chief of Police to make a \$5,000 donation for the purposes stated herein and authorizes the Finance Manager to transfer \$5,000 from unassigned fund balance to the Police Special Revenue Fund to facilitate the City of Martinez's participation in this program.

* * * * *

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by the City Council of the City of Martinez, at a Regular Meeting of said Council held on the 19th day of June, 2013, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

RICHARD G. HERNANDEZ, CITY CLERK
CITY OF MARTINEZ

Mark A. Peterson
District Attorney

OFFICE OF THE
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
900 Ward Street
Martinez, California 94553

TO: Board of Supervisors Public Protection Committee
11:00 a.m. June 10, 2013, 651 Pine Street, Room 101, Martinez

FROM: Mark Peterson, District Attorney

DATE: June 3, 2013

SUBJECT: Contra Costa County Gun Buyback Program

I am pleased to announce that the Contra Costa County District Attorney's Office will be sponsoring a county wide gun buyback program in August, 2013. The program is open to all Contra Costa County residents and will occur at several sites around the county.

Recent events like the school shooting in Sandy Hook Connecticut have increased awareness in our nation about the prevalence of guns in our society. Contra Costa County is no stranger to gun violence as we have seen many gun related deaths, especially among our youth. When I took office in January of 2011, I sought to work with my management team to create a mission statement that reflected the collective focus of the District Attorney's Office. That mission statement reads, "The mission of the Contra Costa County District Attorney's Office is to seek justice and **enhance public safety** by fairly, ethically, aggressively, and efficiently prosecuting those who violate the law, **and by working to prevent crime**. It is my belief that this gun buyback program will help prevent crime and possibly save lives. Many crimes are committed with handguns that are stolen in home burglaries, and many accidental discharge incidents occur in homes where unwanted guns are stored. This buyback program will allow citizens to turn in unwanted guns and help us to enhance public safety in return.

We believe that a gun buyback program will be successful here in Contra Costa County based on the results of some recent gun buyback programs that were conducted locally. Earlier this year, Marin County held a county-wide gun buyback program where they purchased 856 guns from citizens. The City of Pittsburg conducted a gun buyback program in March of this year and collected 291 guns. Also in 2013, Santa Clara County held a gun buyback program and collected 1,116 guns.

I am pleased to announce that we have interest from several police agencies in each of the supervisorial districts to host and run collection sites for the gun buyback program. The Chiefs of the Richmond Police Department, Antioch Police Department, Brentwood Police Department, San Ramon Police Department, Concord Police Department and Martinez Police Department have all expressed a desire to participate in the gun buyback program.

The program is based on a “no questions asked” approach where citizens are allowed to turn in guns anonymously for payment. Citizens will be paid up to \$50 in gift cards for return of any operable rifle or shotgun, \$100 in gift card for any operable handgun, and up to \$200 in gift cards for any operable assault weapon. The emphasis of the program is to reduce the number of guns out on the street or readily accessible to those who may not be competent or trained in their use. Therefore, the police will not generate a report or run any person for warrants. All serial numbers of firearms collected will be checked to see if a firearm has been stolen. Any stolen guns will be returned to the rightful owner if possible. All other guns collected will be destroyed. Attached is a draft of a flyer designed to explain and publicize the event.

Fiscal Cost:

Previous gun buyback programs:

Marin County	856 guns	\$110,000
Santa Clara County	1,116 guns	\$114,000
City of Pittsburg	291 guns	\$56,000

The above costs were the amounts paid out for guns. City police costs were borne internally. It is anticipated that the city police departments in our county where the gun buybacks would physically occur, would also bear the internal costs of conducting the program, including staff time, advertising, planning, etc..

It is anticipated that a countywide program in Contra Costa County would cost approximately \$150,000 to actually purchase the number of guns expected to be turned in. We are currently seeking donations to fund the program. We have already received generous commitments of funds from Chevron, Tesoro, Phillips 66, and Shell Oil Company, totaling \$40,000. We will use these cash donations to purchase gift cards from local businesses so that citizens turning in guns for payment will be able to redeem the gift cards locally. The District Attorney’s Office will also consider using funds from asset forfeiture proceeds to help fund the program. It is hoped that Contra Costa County would also consider helping to fund the program.

Contra Costa County

GUN BUYBACK PROGRAM



Contra Costa County Residents can anonymously turn in guns:

Saturday, August 3, 2013
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

UP TO \$50
FOR RIFLES AND SHOTGUNS
UP TO \$100
FOR HANDGUNS
UP TO \$200
FOR ASSAULT WEAPONS AS CLASSIFIED IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

*PAYMENT IN GIFT CARDS
*WEAPONS MUST BE IN WORKING CONDITION

FUNDS ARE LIMITED & SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY
We reserve the right to limit the amount of funds an individual can receive regardless of the number of firearms surrendered.

More Info: (925) 957-2200

Please Transport Your Firearms Unloaded And In The Trunk Of Your Vehicle

District Attorney
Mark Peterson



In partnership with:

Assemblywoman
Susan Bonilla



Contra Costa
County Board of
Supervisors



Co-sponsored by:

