


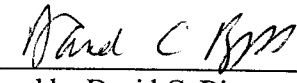


City of Carson Report to Mayor and City Council

April 16, 2013
New Business Discussion

SUBJECT: CONSIDER APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO SUPPORT THE CARSON SHERIFF'S STATION PROPOSED GUN BUY BACK PROGRAM PLANNED FOR EARLY JUNE


Submitted by Raymond R. Cruz
Director of Community Services


Approved by David C. Biggs
City Manager

I. SUMMARY

This item is on the agenda at the request of Councilmember Gipson.

The Carson Sheriff's Station is planning on holding a Gun Buy Back event in early June. The intent of the Gun Buy Back program is to reduce the number of firearms in the community, which could potentially be stolen or used in criminal activity. In order to move forward with the implementation of the event, \$50,000.00 must be raised to exchange for surrendered firearms. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department has committed \$37,000.00 in gift cards and the Carson Sheriff's Station Support Foundation has committed \$5,000.00 for the purchase of additional gift cards. The Carson Sheriff's Station is seeking \$8,000.00 from the City of Carson to reach their \$50,000.00 goal. All unused funds will be returned to the respective organizations. Staff is recommending that the City Council approve the appropriation of \$8,000.00 to assist in funding the Gun Buy Back event.

II. RECOMMENDATION

TAKE the following actions:

1. APPROVE an appropriation of funds to support the Carson Sheriff's Station proposed Gun Buy Back Program.
2. APPROPRIATE \$8,000.00 from the Restricted Administrative Tow Fee Fund balance to support the proposed Gun Buy Back Program.

III. ALTERNATIVES

TAKE any other action the City Council deems appropriate.

IV. BACKGROUND

In early June, the Carson Sheriff's Station of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) is planning to hold a Gun Buy Back event in the parking lot of Carson City Hall. The intent of the Gun Buy Back program is to reduce the number of firearms in the community, which could potentially be stolen or used in criminal activity, ultimately reducing violent crime. The greatest challenge to this program is to ensure that local residents understand this is a completely

anonymous process, and that there will be no questions asked of those who choose to surrender firearms. The key to the success of this event will be a multi-faceted publicity campaign. The Carson Sheriff's Station will utilize local media, including radio and print, social media outlets, the internet, as well as distributing flyers throughout the community.

The LASD, in partnership with the City of Carson and the Carson Sheriff's Station Support Foundation, will be offering gift cards for each firearm surrendered during this program: \$100.00 gift cards will be offered for handguns, rifles and shotguns, \$200.00 gift cards for assault weapons and \$50.00 gift cards for inoperable firearms. All weapons will be collected by Sheriff's Department personnel, with the assistance of local volunteers, at a booth in the Carson City Hall parking lot.

In order to move forward with the implementation of the event, the LASD needs to raise \$50,000.00 to exchange for surrendered firearms, with the sole objective of not turning anyone away who wishes to surrender a firearm due to a lack of funds. The LASD has committed \$37,000.00 in gift cards. The Carson Sheriff's Station Support Foundation has committed \$5,000.00 for the purchase of additional gift cards. The Carson Sheriff's Station is seeking \$8,000.00 from the City of Carson to reach their \$50,000.00 goal. The gift cards from the LASD will be utilized first, followed by the funds from the City of Carson, and should the need arise, the funds from the Support Foundation. All unused funds will be returned to the respective organizations.

The last time the City of Carson participated in a Gun Buy Back program was in April 2009. During that event, 219 firearms were surrendered. Since the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School late last year, there has been a renewed emphasis on gun violence in communities across the country. In January of this year, the Compton Sheriff's Station hosted a Gun Buy Back program, where 386 firearms were surrendered.

V. FISCAL IMPACT

Funds for the Gun Buy Back program were not included in the FY2012/13 budget; therefore, if the \$8,000.00 in funding is approved for this program event, funds will need to be appropriated from the unallocated Restricted Administrative Tow Fee fund, account no. 62-90-900-139-6009. The year-to-date Restricted Administrative Tow Fee Fund balance is \$19,061.01.

VI. EXHIBITS

None.

Prepared by: Brent Gesch, Public Safety Administrative Analyst

Reviewed by:

City Clerk	City Treasurer
Administrative Services <i>Travis N. Cathagan</i>	Public Works
Community Development	Community Services

Action taken by City Council

Date _____ Action _____
