
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

August 16, 2005

Ald. Mike McGee, Jr.
(414) 286-2994

Buy-Back Program Approaching 250 Guns Taken Off City Streets; Program Expands To Racine

The successful gun buy-back program founded by Ald. Mike McGee, Jr. will wrap up in Milwaukee this week, but will be starting up in Racine on Saturday.

“This pilot program in Milwaukee has been so successful that clergy, business people and community leaders in the City of Racine are interested in initiating a program of their own,” said Ald. McGee. Racine, like Milwaukee, has seen its share of gun violence this summer. The gun buy-back in Racine will take place on Saturday at a time and place to be determined.

Ald. McGee says when the Milwaukee buy-back program ends on Friday, it’s expected that more than 250 guns will have been removed from the streets of the city. A public ceremony will be held at the end of August at which time all the weapons collected will be destroyed. The alderman says any funds left over from the program would be used to assist entrepreneurs with business startups and a job training component.

Donations from an anonymous donor will enable Ald McGee to buy guns one more time from citizens **tomorrow, Wednesday, August 17, 2005 at St. Timothy’s Church, 3701 N. Teutonia Ave., from 10 a.m. to noon, and at the same time on Friday, August 19, 2005.**

-More-

Gun Buy-Back Expands to Racine/ADD ONE

Once again people offering guns to the program are asked to carry the weapons in the vehicle's trunk, unloaded, and in a carrying case. Only handguns and sawed-off shotguns will be bought – no long rifles or hunting shotguns will be accepted, Ald. McGee said. Vehicles must be parked in the church's parking lot and no questions will be asked.

The alderman, along with clergy, local business people and Pastor Mose Fuller of St. Timothy's, launched the buy-back effort after witnessing a shooting that took the life of 18-year-old Sidney Smith on July 15 outside a festival at the church.

Ald. McGee has asked Mayor Tom Barrett to explore possible city funding to continue the program and says he is still waiting to hear from the mayor as to whether the pilot program could be expanded to other sites in Milwaukee.

Funded with donations from clergy and business owners and the Milwaukee Police Association, the gun buy-back started July 27, offering people up to \$150.00 for each firearm.

Nearly every week this summer has included multiple shootings and homicides in Milwaukee, and the city's 84 homicides in 2005 far eclipse the total at the same time last year.