
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

August 3, 2005

Ald. Mike McGee, Jr.
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Buy-Back Program Tallies More Than 100 Guns Taken Off City Streets; Generous Donors Help Extend Program

The gun buy-back program founded by Ald. Mike McGee, Jr. received a last-minute donation today that will allow people at least one more opportunity to turn in handguns and sawed-off shotguns with no questions asked.

The gun buy-back program has been so successful that it was quickly depleted of funds and was slated to end today, but donations from the Schlossmann Automotive Group and the Milwaukee Police Association will enable the program to operate again on Friday, Aug. 5, Ald. McGee said. "I'm very, very grateful that Schlossmann's and the MPA stepped forward so generously today and gave us funds that will allow us to take additional guns out of our neighborhoods," the alderman said.

The last-minute donations will allow Ald. McGee to buy guns from citizens on Friday from 10 a.m. to noon at St. Timothy's Church, 3701 N. Teutonia Ave. 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.

-More-

Gun Buy-Back Program Extended/ADD ONE

To date the program has allowed Ald. McGee to buy 102 guns. More than 80 guns were bought back in the program's first two days – over the course of about four hours.

Ald. McGee partnered with clergy, local business people and Pastor Mose Fuller of St. Timothy's Church to launch the gun 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. On Friday Ald. McGee will meet with Mayor Tom Barrett to explore possible city funding to continue the program. "This state of emergency caused by the epidemic of shootings and homicides is bigger than just one or two elected city officials and is affecting our entire city," the alderman said.

"We need to work together if we are to make headway in reducing the level of violence and the human tragedy that's unfolding, and I think going after the guns is an effective, direct step we can and should take as a city," Ald. McGee said.

Funded with donations from clergy and business owners, 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 78 homicides in 2005 far eclipse the total at the same time last year.