
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

August 29, 2005

Ald. Mike McGee, Jr.
Ald. Willie L. Hines, Jr.
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Gun Buy-Back Program Reborn And Will Operate At New Milwaukee Location; News Conference To Display Guns Taken Off Streets & Announce Jobs Initiative

Ald. Mike McGee, Jr.'s grass-roots gun buy-back program will be restarted and will begin operating at a new Milwaukee location on Wednesday afternoon, the alderman said today.

An announcement of the new location – the 3rd District Community Justice Center, 1953 N. 34th St. – and a sobering look at some of the guns taken off the streets by the gun buy-back initiative will be the subject of a news conference at 11 a.m. Wednesday, August 31, 2005 at St. Timothy's Church, 3701 N. Teutonia Ave. Media coverage is invited.

Held regularly at St. Timothy's Church since its inception in late July, the gun buy-back effort ended on Friday, August 19, removing more than 200 guns from city streets and neighborhoods. However, thanks to the generosity of donors and contributors, the Milwaukee gun buy-back will operate for the next two weeks at the 3rd District Community Justice Center from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays, Ald. McGee said.

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Gun Buy-Back Program To Restart/ADD ONE

“I’m very pleased that we’ll be restarting the gun buy-back program in the 15th Aldermanic District, the area represented by Common Council President Willie Hines,” said Ald. McGee. “I appreciate Ald. Hines’ support for our efforts to get these deadly weapons off the streets and very possibly out of the hands of people who would use them to rob, shoot and kill.”

Ald. Hines said the buy-back initiative delivers a subtle but powerful message to an important target audience in the community. “While some question the viability of a gun buy-back program, I believe the program can aid us in sending the message to our kids that guns are dangerous, and unwanted in our community,” Ald. Hines said.

The news conference Wednesday will also include the launch of a major new jobs initiative that is another offshoot of the gun buy-back program. Ald. McGee said the jobs initiative will target young people in the 14-to-23 age group, offering business and entrepreneurial training to interested individuals.

Also on Wednesday, a gun buy-back program that is an offshoot of the Milwaukee program will begin in Racine. The program will be held on each Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to noon at the Project New Life Administrative Office, 1733 Douglas Ave. The Racine program, started in part with the help of a \$1,000 donation from Ald. McGee and St. Timothy’s Church, will operate for two months. As in the Milwaukee program, no questions will be asked, but all guns must be cased, unloaded and transported to the location in the trunk of a vehicle.

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 St. Timothy’s.