

City Council**Motion without Notice**

MM19.28	ACTION			Ward:All
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Gun Amnesty/Buyback Program - by Councillor Giorgio Mammoliti, seconded by Councillor Vincent Crisanti

** Notice of this Motion has not been given. A two-thirds vote is required to waive notice.
* This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.
* This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair.*

Recommendations

Councillor Giorgio Mammoliti, seconded by Councillor Vincent Crisanti, recommends that:

1. City Council direct the City Manager to investigate the feasibility of partnering with a corporate sponsor to achieve the City's goals of a Gun Amnesty/Buyback program as described in this Motion and request the City Manager to report back to the July 12 and 13, 2016 Council meeting on a plan for immediate implementation.
2. If no corporate sponsor can be found in time, City Council direct the City Manager to report back to the July 12 and 13, 2016 Council meeting on a plan for the City of Toronto to immediately implement a Gun Amnesty/Buyback program on its own.

Summary

In August 2000, a motion was passed at City Council pertaining to a Gun Amnesty/Buyback program entitled "Operation: Save a Life". This program has been successful in many North American jurisdictions, including Toronto. The Gun Amnesty/Buyback gives citizens a legal route to properly dispose of their unwanted firearms, without the threat of prosecution, and in turn, increasing the safety of our communities.

The Amnesty/Buyback program is intended to encourage people that have guns in the house, whether their own or that of a friend or relative, to turn them into police before they fall into the hands of criminals. The amnesty part of the program is for people that turn in the guns, not for anyone who may have used them during a crime.

When the City launched the program in 2000, we were successful in taking 2,000 firearms off the street in just two weeks at a total cost of only \$100,000 or \$50 per gun, less than the cost of investigating just one murder case.

With gun violence rising throughout the City, a repeat of this program would be greatly beneficial in the decrease of firearms on our streets and in our neighbourhoods.

The City can proceed on its own with an offer of \$100 per gun, or partner with a corporate sponsor such as a grocery chain to offer grocery gift cards in the amount of \$200 which would increase the incentive to turn in unwanted firearms and decrease the cost to the City of Toronto. Whether the incentive is offered directly through the City of Toronto or a corporate sponsor, a Gun Amnesty/Buyback program, with minimal costs, will have enormous benefits and increase safety.

While this will not solve all of our problems, I feel that the benefits of getting as many unwarranted guns off the streets, before they become a problem, is well worth the effort.

This Motion is urgent as there has been a spike in the use of firearms. Past experiences show that it gets worse in the summer months, so it is critical that Council deal with this issue, at this meeting, in order to get the program up and running as soon as possible.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM19.28