

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
NEWS RELEASE

PUBLIC INFORMATION DIVISION
1200 CLARK AVE.
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63103
(314) 444-5603

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Nearly 1,000 Guns Off the Streets After Gun Buy Back
8 Hour Event Nets 997* Weapons, Nearly Doubling Last Year's Total

The Metropolitan Police Department's second Gun Buy Back Event in two years, saw citizens hand over nearly 1,000 weapons today in exchange for cash. This year's event was hugely successful, nearly doubling last year's total of 536 weapons.

Co-sponsored by 100.3 The Beat, ClearChannel Radio and KPLR-TV, the Gun Buy Back was held from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. at The Omega Center, 3900 Goodfellow. Men and women of various ages, races and backgrounds participated in the event, receiving \$100 for assault rifles such as AK-47's and \$50 for all other guns. To receive cash, the weapons had to be operable. In 8 hours, citizens turned in 997* guns, including 10 assault rifles. 50 of those guns were turned over to police for no cash payment, since the weapons were deemed inoperable.

The Gun Buy Back was held at no cost to the taxpayers of St. Louis. Instead of using taxpayer dollars, the Department used monies that were previously seized as a result of criminal enterprises.

The Department's firearms experts, who examined the weapons for operability today, will spend the next several days entering the weapons into a database to determine if any weapons were reported stolen or are suspected to have been used in a crime. Stolen guns will be returned to their rightful owners if possible. Any gun used in a crime will be retained as evidence. All other weapons will be destroyed.

The goal of the gun buy back is to reduce the number of firearms in the community. Police officers see many instances where suspects, particularly juveniles, commit a crime with an older weapon that the rightful owner no longer uses, has forgotten about, or has seemingly lost track of. Today, there are 997* fewer weapons that can potentially be used in the commission of a crime and the Department is proud of the efforts of its employees and of the citizens who showed their committed to making our community safer.

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(*Each weapon was tagged and numbered upon receipt and our count is believed to be accurate, however the tally will be confirmed once firearms examiners have entered the weapons into the database.)

