

NEWS INFORMATION FROM

THE OFFICE OF MAYOR STEPHEN R. REED

City of Harrisburg

King City Government Center

Harrisburg, PA 17101-1678

Telephone: 717.255.3040

FOR IMMEDIATE USE

5 Dec 2006

GUN BUYBACK PROGRAM TO RESUME WEDNESDAY

Mayor Stephen R. Reed today said Harrisburg's gun buyback program will resume on Wednesday, December 6, at the cities two Community Policing Centers. New hours of 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. are being implemented to accommodate city residents who work during the day and have thus far been unable to participate. The program has garnered 290 weapons so far and will continue until funds run out. The buyback is not being held today as the supply of cash cards were exhausted yesterday and new ones are currently being secured for the program resumption tomorrow.

Mayor Reed said the buyback program has been bolstered by an additional \$10,000 donation from Steven Kusic and National Recovery Agency, a Paxton Street debt collection service agency. The program was initially funded by a \$15,000 Legislative Initiative Grant from State Representative Ron Buxton (103rd).

Reed said the program is open to any city resident with a working firearm, including handguns, rifles and shotguns. Persons turning in weapons receive a \$100 cash card for each weapon received, no questions asked. The buyback program is being conducted at the cities two community policing centers, located

at 313 S. 15th Street on Allison Hill, and at 2006 N. 6th Street in Uptown. Ammunition is also being accepted for disposal, and anyone bringing in a weapon is urged to remove the guns bullets if the weapon is loaded.

The Mayor said thus far 290 rifles, shotguns and handguns have been turned in. Reed noted that in its law enforcement work, the city itself has recovered or seized 1,460 firearms since 2003, with more being seized every week. Reducing violence on our streets begins with reducing the flow of weapons, said Reed. We may never be able to completely reduce the flow of weapons to the streets, but removing even just one can mean the difference between someone living or dying. We strongly encourage residents throughout the city to participate.

Persons wanting more information on the gun buyback program are asked to call the Office of the Chief of Police at (717) 255.3103.