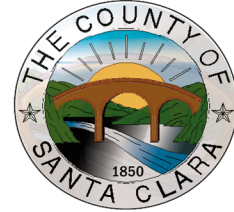


County of Santa Clara
Office of the County Executive

County Government Center, East Wing
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DATE: October 12, 2021

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors
Jeffrey V. Smith, County Executive

FROM: Garry Herceg, Deputy County Executive

DocuSigned by:
Garry Herceg
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SUBJECT: Off-Agenda Report relating a Firearm Buy-Back Program

This report is submitted regarding the referral on the Firearm Buy-Back Program, which is scheduled to be heard at the October 19, 2021 Board of Supervisors meeting. This off-agenda report provides a brief overview regarding firearms both on the national and local level and a recommendation from Administration.

In 2020 the FBI reported there were 39 million background checks done nationally for firearm purchases with an estimated 5 million of those being for first time gun owners. This was the highest year on record and more than an 11 million increase from 2019. So far through August of this year, the FBI reports 27 million background checks were done for firearm purchases. This significant increase in gun purchases across the nation has also led to a nationwide shortage on ammunition.

Within the County, it is estimated that there are between 350,000-500,000 registered firearms. Also, we reached out to local gun dealers and learned they are experiencing both a shortage of firearms and ammunition due to an unprecedented demand for guns and ammunition over the last year and half. Simply put, the public demand for firearms has never been greater in the US.

We also found through our research that firearm buy-back programs are not considered an evidenced based practice, and there was no indication they reduced gun violence in the community. There was however anecdotal information that firearm buy-back events provided some value to the community in that they were an opportunity to help educate the community on gun violence, gun safety, and awareness.

Additionally, should a buy-back event be approved and implemented, it would be staffed through the use of overtime in both the District Attorney's Office and Sheriff's Office. This cost would be approximately \$50,000 in staffing per event. This is would not be very cost effective based on data from past firearm buy-back events.

In conclusion, given the current landscape public demand for firearms Administration recommends not hosting a firearm buy-back event but to simply incentivize existing gun relinquishment programs that are operating through the Office of the District Attorney and the Sheriff's Office by using asset forfeiture funds to provide those who turn in guns either cash or a gift card incentive.

cc: Chief Board Aides
Miguel Marquez, Chief Operating Officer
James R. Williams, County Counsel
Tiffany Lennear, Acting Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
Mary Ann Barrous, Agenda Review Administrator
Erica Kelly, Principal Budget and Public Policy Analyst