



**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**Agenda Item #2**

**AGENDA REPORT SUMMARY**

**Meeting Date:** January 14, 2020

**Subject:** Approval of \$5,000 for the North County Gun Buyback Program.

**Prepared by:** Katie Krauss, Police Captain

**Reviewed by:** Andy Galea, Chief of Police

**Approved by:** Chris Jordan, City Manager

**Attachment(s):**

None

**Initiated by:**

Staff

**Previous Council Consideration:**

August 2018 for 2018 Buyback Event

**Fiscal Impact:**

\$5,000 for the costs associated with the purchase and destruction of firearms.

**Environmental Review:**

Not applicable

**Policy Question(s) for Council Consideration:**

- None

**Summary:**

- The Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety approached several Santa Clara County Police agencies about coordinating efforts for another North County Gun Buyback Program. The Los Altos Police Department will partner with several Santa Clara County Police agencies, the Santa Clara County District Attorney Office and the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office to conduct a County Gun Buyback event on February 29, 2020 in Sunnyvale. The Santa Clara County District Attorney's office is contributing \$25,000 to the program and the Los Altos Police Department is requesting \$5,000 to support this program. It is anticipated that each participating law enforcement agency will contribute between \$50,000 and \$30,000 to support the program.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Approve the allocation of \$5,000 for the County Gun Buyback Program.



**Subject: Approval of funds for the North County Gun Buyback Program.**

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### **Purpose**

To provide direction or approval of funds for the North County Gun Buyback Program

### **Background**

Gun buyback programs have been successfully utilized to purchase privately owned firearms in the Bay Area and throughout the Nation. Gun buyback programs allow police agencies to purchase firearms owned by members of the community and provide a safe and simple process where community members can sell or dispose of their firearms permanently. Gun buyback programs also allow for firearms of all types to be turned in or sold anonymously. Several North Santa Clara County Police agencies, including Mountain View, Sunnyvale, and Palo Alto will be participating in the program.

### **Discussion/Analysis**

The overall goal of a gun buyback program is to reduce the number of guns in a community and to reduce the number of associated injuries and deaths. The key objectives of this program will be:

1. Provide an opportunity for safe disposal of firearms
2. Reduce the availability of guns in Santa Clara County
3. Raise awareness of the risks of firearms

The Los Altos Police Department is one of nine law enforcement agencies that have agreed to participate in the North County Gun Buyback event scheduled for February 29, 2020. The Los Altos Police Department will coordinate with other agencies to provide outreach, staffing, security, storage and destruction of the firearms. The program will pay \$100 for each pistol, handgun, rifle or shotgun. The program will pay \$200 for each assault type weapon. Community members are asked to bring firearms to the event and law enforcement officers will collect and secure the weapons. All firearms will be destroyed.

Based on staff research on similar gun buyback events, it is estimated that a budget of \$65,000 or more will be needed to meet the anticipated public response. The Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office is contributing \$25,000 and partnering law enforcement agencies have been invited to make a financial contribution. Los Altos Police participated in this event in 2018, where 567 firearms were surrendered and \$55,000 in funds were distributed.



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### **Options**

1) Approve \$5,000 for the costs associated with the purchase destruction of firearms.

**Advantages:** Funds will be used to support the County Gun Buyback Program.

**Disadvantages:** None

2) Provide direction to revise or deny the requested appropriation.

**Advantages:** None

**Disadvantages:** Potentially reduce the funds available to support this gun buyback program.

### **Recommendation**

The staff recommends Option 1.