

# Gun Violence Prevention Subcommittee

## Gun Buyback Fact Sheet

**What:** A voluntary buyback of guns from Santa Cruz County residents

**Who:** The TBE Social Action Committee is fundraising for a voluntary gun buyback to be conducted by the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Department.

**How:** The Sheriff's office has asked us to raise between \$25,000 and \$40,000 in order to fund the buyback. The subcommittee is now investigating fundraising strategies and how to include the larger Santa Cruz community (other faith communities, etc.) in this effort.

**Where:** The gun buyback will be held at Sheriff's headquarters or other location (not at Temple Beth El)

**When:** Summer 2020 — date to come

**Why:** The voluntary gun buyback is a step we can take to reduce gun violence in our society. Guns in the home are 22 times more likely to be used to kill or injure a member of the household in a domestic homicide, suicide, or unintentional shooting than to be used in self-defense against a home intruder. <sup>1</sup>

Each year over 380,000 guns are stolen from private gun owners.<sup>2</sup>

The majority of the 23,000 stolen firearms recovered by police between 2010 and 2016 were recovered in connection with crimes, including more than 1,500 violent acts. <sup>3</sup>

Many people have guns in the home they don't want. Firearms are difficult to get rid of legally.

The last Gun Buyback here was on March 24, 2018, at the Fire Department in Watsonville and the Sheriff's Office in Soquel. Their details: "This is a "no questions asked, no identification needed" event. If you have guns that you do not need or want, come get cash while it lasts!" They spent all of their \$40,000 and had to turn people away. They collected 618 weapons including 15 assault rifles, hundreds of rifles, shotguns, pistols and some antique firearms. All were smelted down (no reference was made to plowshares).

**A Success Story:** The Boston Police Department ...offered a \$200 gift card for each handgun – but no cash or gift card for rifles or shotguns. At the conclusion of the program, the Boston Police Department reported that more than 85 percent of submitted firearms were handguns, closely matching the types of guns used in crime. The number of shootings decreased by 14 percent in Boston in the year after the buyback and continued to decrease through 2010. <sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Kellermann, Arthur L. et al., [Injuries and Deaths Due to Firearms in the Home](#), *Journal of Trauma, Injury, Infection, and Critical Care*, 45(2) (1998): 263-267

<sup>2</sup>Hemenway D, Azrael D, Miller M. Whose guns are stolen? The epidemiology of gun theft victims. *Injury Epidemiology*. 2017; 4(1): 11.

<sup>3</sup>Freskos B. Missing pieces: Gun theft from legal gun owners is on the rise, quietly fueling violent crime. *The Trace*. November 20, 2017. <https://bit.ly/2izST1h>. The Trace identified more than 1,500 violent acts connected to stolen guns, including "carjackings and kidnappings, armed robberies at stores and banks, sexual assaults and murders, and other violent acts."

<sup>4</sup>Newsweek, [Could a Weapons Buyback Program Solve Gun Violence in America](#), August 5, 2019