

Ft. Pierce Police Department

News Release

05/16/09

R. Sean Baldwin

Chief of Police



920 S. U.S. #1

Ft. Pierce, FL 34950

Gun buyback nets assault rifle

FORT PIERCE – The trade in of a Colt assault rifle during the second gun buyback this year was considered a major achievement of the program's goal.

Police traded \$2,450 for 48 guns during Saturday's six-hour gun buyback held at St. Mark's Missionary Baptist Church, 921 Orange Avenue.

In April the city held its first gun buyback in six years and nearly 80 guns were traded for approximately \$4,000. City Commissioner Sessions organized a similar gun buyback in 1993 that collected about 70 firearms in less than 3 hours. On March 18, 2009, the City Commission approved his request to repeat the effort with an allowance of \$10,000 dedicated to the project.

The police department partnered with the City Commission in the gun buyback program as part of the department's Operation Ceasefire, a collaborative community program designed to reduce gang violence in our community. Operation Ceasefire started with a clear agreement across the community: "Gang violence is destroying our community, and it will not be tolerated." Operation Ceasefire provides a clear warning to gang members: "You have a choice to make. You will either stop the violence that is destroying our community, or you will spend your life in prison, said Police Chief R. Sean Baldwin.

Free gun safety locks were given away during the gun buyback event for residents that need to secure guns kept in their homes. These gun safety locks are designed to prevent accidental shootings are available until supplies last at the main police station, 920 S. US 1, and the Willie B. Ellis Substation, 1220 Avenue D.

The police department has also partnered with Crime Stoppers to establish a gun crime reward program that will pay a reward of up to \$1,000 to anyone providing information that leads to the arrest of any person using or possessing a firearm illegally. Chief Baldwin said, we are offering this program to encourage residents to take action against gun violence. Residents can provide tips and remain anonymous by calling Crime Stoppers at (800)273-8477).



Officer Hall Solomon, who is one of the department's amorer, checks the AR15 to make sure it is operable before securing it. # # #

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