

City of Newburgh

Press Release

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Councilman Curlie Dillard announces kick-off of Newburgh's participation in the county-wide gun buyback program. (l-r) Jade Greene, Executive Director NCAC, Mayor Judy Kennedy, Deputy Mayor Regina Angelo, Assemblyman Frank Skartados, David Potack, Vice-Chairman GNP, Senator William Larkin, Police Chief Michael Ferrara, Orange County Sheriff Carl Dubois, and Chief Criminal Investigator Greg Gaetano.

City of Newburgh Schedules Special Gun Buyback Events

The City of Newburgh will hold two special Gun Buyback days in connection with the county-wide Amnesty Program, "Save a Life," announced by Orange County Executive Edward Diana on Jan. 17, 2013. The first will be on Saturday, January 19, 2013 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Newburgh Community Action Committee (NCAC) building in the former Masonic Lodge, 48 Grand Street. The second will be at House of Refuge, 131 Broadway, on Saturday, Feb. 9 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. The program will run through March 18, 2013, and in addition to the two special drop-off events, guns may be turned into the City of Newburgh Police Department at the front desk.

The gun buyback program enables individuals to turn in firearms without fear of charges. Participants will be rewarded with gift cards from Shop-Rite in amounts varying from \$25 for an inoperable weapon to \$150 for rifles and shotguns.

The campaign is supported locally by the City of Newburgh, the City of Newburgh Police Department, Senator Bill Larkin, Assemblyman Frank Skartados, the Orange County Executive, Sheriff's Department, and District Attorney, the Greater Newburgh Partnership (GNP), Newburgh Community Action Committee (NCAC), Rev. Jesse Howard, Chaplain Crisis Response Ministries and Bishop Jeffrey Woody.

Councilman Curlie Dillard, who spearheaded the City's program, noted, "Since 2010 we have lost 20 lives due to gun violence. We need everyone's help to turn this trend around, and we especially welcome the assistance of County and State officials, the Greater Newburgh Partnership, and religious and community leaders. It is not only the gun on the street, but the unattended or forgotten gun in the home that is of concern. This cooperative effort sends positive assurance to anyone who may be apprehensive about turning in a firearm."

Senator Bill Larkin stated, "This is a step forward in removing illegal guns from our streets. We need to show the public they have our support and we need their support if we are to be successful in removing guns from our community and making our community safe."

Assemblyman Frank Skartados said, "This is a great program and I commend those who organized it including Executive Edward Diana, Councilman Curlie Dillard, the City of Newburgh and all of the other partners. This gun buyback program will help make the streets safer and gives an incentive to people with illegal guns to turn them in before they are involved in a life changing tragedy."

Orange County Executive Edward A. Diana added, "Orange County is committed to reducing gun violence and reducing the injuries and deaths associated with unlawful access to firearms. No one can argue against removing unlawful and unwanted guns to prevent them from getting into the wrong hands. I encourage all of our citizens who may be in possession of an illegal or unwanted gun to do the right thing and take advantage of this program."

City of Newburgh Police Chief Michael Ferrara said, "The central concept of a gun buyback plan is to remove guns from a community that could possibly be used in an accidental or intentional act of violence. It's a small part of a solution to a very big problem but it's a good concept that I believe in."

David Potack, Vice Chairman of the GNP and owner of Unitex Shared Textile in the City of Newburgh added, "Safety is a key factor in the solution needed to help turn around Newburgh. Helping to get guns off the street is a step in the right direction - but more needs to be done. The GNP strongly supports this gun buyback program, as well as others, which address safety and violence."

Mayor Judy Kennedy commented, "I would like to thank the County Executive, Orange County District Attorney, Sheriff Dubois, Commissioner Craig Cherry, Shop-Rite, the GNP, Senator Larkin and Assemblyman Skartados for their support of the gun buy-back program, and Councilman Dillard, Chief Michael Ferrara, and Rev. Jesse Howard for making it a reality in the City of Newburgh again this year. With the invaluable assistance of our community partners, including Jade Greene of Newburgh Community Action Committee and Bishop Woody of the House of Refuge, we hope to make an important difference in the number of violent incidents in the City of Newburgh."