

# Your Piece for



## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Q. What is the Gun Buyback Program?**

A. The gun buyback program is a proactive campaign to take guns off our streets. The buyback program asks city residents to turn-in their gun(s) and in return receive a \$200.00 Visa® gift card at designated drop-off locations citywide. The “no questions asked” program will allow individuals to anonymously dispose of firearms without fear of charges for illegal possession when turning in the weapon at a designated drop-off location.

**Q. Why is the community launching this program?**

**A.** This program is a citywide community effort led by neighbors who have been impacted by an increase in gun violence. Taking guns off the street is at the heart of violence prevention and we must do everything we can to put an end to the senseless violence. Every gun turned in to the program is a life potentially saved.

**Q. What if I do not want to go to a designated drop-off site?**

**A.** Call the hotline—**1-888-GUNTIPS**—from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., seven days a week. An operator will be available to take your call and arrange for a private exchange.

**Q. What is the protocol for turning in a firearm?**

- A.** In order to receive amnesty for illegal possession at the time you turn in the weapon, protocol **MUST** be precisely followed. The protocol includes:
- Guns **MUST** be delivered unloaded.
  - Guns **MUST** be put in a clear plastic bag and put into another container (gym bag, backpack, etc.).
  - If depositing ammunition in addition to a gun, ammunition must be delivered in a separate bag.
  - If transporting the gun by car, gun must be transported in the trunk of the car.
  - After the gun is screened by officers, and determined to be a working firearm, a gift card will be given.
  - Rifles and shotguns will be accepted, however no incentive will be issued.

**Q. Will I get arrested when I deliver a gun to a designated drop-off site?**

- A.** No. However, you **MUST** strictly follow the turn in protocol in order to receive amnesty when turning in the firearm at a designated drop-off site. If the protocol is followed, the person dropping off the firearm will not be prosecuted for unlawful possession of that specific firearm. Amnesty will not be given for any other crime committed with that firearm or for any other crime committed while in possession of that firearm. If protocol is not followed, or if the Boston Police determine you are not participating in the buyback, the Boston Police may effectuate an arrest for illegal possession.

**Q. Do I have to leave my name?**

- A.** No. This is a “no questions asked” program, which means you will remain anonymous when you drop off the firearm.

**Q. What if I want to drop off a gun before noon or after 7:00 p.m.?**

- A.** Call the hotline – **1-888-GUNTIPS**. Someone will be available to take your call and arrange for a private exchange outside of the given time frame.

**Q. What types of guns are accepted?**

- A.** All guns will be accepted. Incentives will not be issued for junk or antique guns, rifles or shotguns. Gift cards will only be issued for workable firearms. Whether a gun is “workable” will be determined by the police officer accepting the weapon.

**Q. What is the incentive?**

- A.** The incentive is a \$200.00 Visa® gift card.

**Q. What happens after the gun is turned in?**

- A.** Guns will be sent to the Boston Police Ballistics Unit. They will be tested to determine whether or not the weapon has been involved in criminal activity. If the test is positive, the gun will be retained as evidence, and an investigation will follow. If the test is negative, the weapon will be slated for destruction.

**Q. Are gun buybacks proven to reduce gun violence?**

- A.** Currently, there are no reliable statistics regarding a gun buyback’s direct effect on gun violence. That said, we do know that if a gun is turned in, it will not be used in a future crime. The buyback program is one part of a larger anti-gun strategy and opportunity to mobilize our community in joint efforts against gun violence. This program demonstrates Boston’s “Call to Action” for safer city streets. “Your Piece For Peace” embraces the philosophy that one fewer gun on the street is potentially many lives saved.

