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Jersey City Holds Operation Lifesaver II A Citywide Gun Buy Back Program

JERSEY CITY – Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy, the Hudson County Prosecutors Office, the Jersey City Police Department and the Interfaith Ministerial Alliance are holding a citywide Gun Buy Back program, *Operation Lifesaver II*, in an effort to get guns off of the streets and ultimately save lives. On consecutive Saturdays, **July 16** and **July 23rd**, from **12 noon to 4 pm**, churches and community centers will be open as a drop off location for any firearms for cash without fear of arrest.

“A large part of our success has been due to the collaboration from the community, as well as our corporate community who has generously donated to this initiative,” said **Mayor Healy**. “This year, we’ve partnered with our local clergy and community groups on this mission to help get the word out about this phase of *Operation Summer Shield*, our multi-faceted strategy to make our streets safe not just during the summer months and throughout the year.”

In 2005, *Operation Lifesaver* was a tremendous success with nearly 900 guns removed from the streets.

“We all know that the proliferation of guns on the streets of many cities across this great country is increasing crime, particularly violent crime,” said **Mayor Healy**. “And our efforts to change those laws at a federal level are made even more difficult by the powerful gun lobby. But we are not going to wait for the promise of a federal cure, we are doing whatever it takes to make our streets safe and getting guns out of the wrong hands is the right place to start. And we’d like to thank the houses of worship who have opened their doors as collections spots in order to make this mission happen.”

Guns may be dropped off for cash on **July 16** at any one of these locations: **Evangelismos Greek Orthodox Church Community Center**, 567 Montgomery Street; **St. Nicholas Church**, 122 Ferry Street; or the **Mary McLeod Bethune Life Center**, 140 MLK Drive. On **July 23**, firearms may be dropped off for cash at: **St. Joseph’s Church**, 511 Pavonia Avenue; **Monumental Baptist Church**, 121 Lafayette Street; and **Heavenly Temple Church**, 15 MLK Drive.

(more)

About Operation Summer Shield

Operation Summer Shield, a three-phase initiative that combined the manpower, street-experience and intelligence gathering skills at all levels of law enforcement that included; U.S. Attorney's Office, DEA, FBI, ATF, US Marshal's Service, NJ State Police, NJ State Parole, Attorney General's Office, Hudson County Prosecutor's and Sheriff's Office and the JCPD, was a concept initiated in January by the JCPD at the request of Mayor Healy who sought to offset "predictable" crime increases in summer months.

On June 3, 2011, Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy, flanked by a coalition of federal, state, county and local law enforcement agencies announced the arrests of 176 violent offenders and wanted suspects taken into custody recently during a tactical intelligence operation designed to stop the criminal offenders before they wreak havoc on city streets during the summer weeks ahead.

Also, a community outreach component of *Operation Summer Shield* will include four or five movie nights located in each of the Police Districts and hosted by the PAL, where neighborhood children and their parents will be able to join with their local police officers and foster improved communication and relations.

About Operation Lifesaver

A few months after taking office in 2005, Mayor Healy launched *Operation Lifesaver*, and nearly 900 guns illegal guns from the streets and homes of Jersey City. Mayor Healy, reiterating his commitment to removing illegal guns from city streets, is holding the second gun amnesty and buyback program, *Operation Lifesaver II* as part of *Operation Summer Shield*.

As in 2005, Mayor Healy and his wife, Maureen, have pledged the first \$1,000 to kick off the drive. The gun purchases are funded by donations from the community, businesses, and the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office.

All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699. ///