

RESOLUTION NO. 198

REQUESTING THE ALBANY COUNTY SHERIFF AND DISTRICT ATTORNEY TO ESTABLISH A COUNTYWIDE HANDGUN BUYBACK PROGRAM

Introduced: 5/12/08

By Messrs. Higgins, Aylward, Beston, Bullock, Ms. Chapman, Messrs. Clay, Clenahan, Commisso, Cotrofeld, Domalewicz, Ethier, Infante, Mayo, Nichols, Rahm, Reilly, Scavo, Ward, Gordon, Joyce, McCoy, Steck, Mss. Connolly and Maffia-Tobler:

WHEREAS, In an effort to help reverse an alarming increase in the number of shootings in the City of Albany, Albany County should undertake a countywide handgun buyback program and grant amnesty to those turning in illegal weapons, and

WHEREAS, Albany Police have reported that violent crime in the city decreased by as much 8.5 percent last year compared with 2006, while at the same time the number of shootings resulting in injury rose 34 percent, from 35 in 2006 to 47 in 2007, according to the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services, and

WHEREAS, A number of communities around the country are reviving gun buyback programs to counter similar surges in firearm violence in recent years, and it is in the interest of public safety that Albany County contribute financial support to establish a Countywide handgun buyback program, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Albany County Legislature requests the Albany County Sheriff and the District Attorney to establish a handgun buyback program providing gift cards or other non-cash incentives for County residents in exchange for working and non-working handguns and requests the District Attorney's Office to grant amnesty to those turning in illegal or defaced handguns, and, be it further

RESOLVED, In order to provide funding for gift cards or other non-cash incentives to operate the handgun buyback program, that the 2008 Albany County Budget is amended as follows:

Decrease Appropriation Account A1990.4 Contingent Account by \$10,000 by decreasing Line Item A1990 4 4999 000 Misc Contractual Expenses by \$10,000

Increase Appropriation Account A3110.4 by \$10,000 by creating and increasing Line Item A3110 4 4062 000 Handgun Buyback Program by \$10,000

and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the County Legislature is directed to forward certified copies of this resolution to the appropriate County Officials.

Adopted by unanimous vote. 5/12/08