

CITY OF KIRKLAND – “GUNS FOR GIFT CARDS EXCHANGE”

CHERIE HARRIS, CHIEF OF POLICE



FUNDING:

On November 6, 2018, Proposition 1 was approved by the voters of Kirkland. Funding was included in this ballot measure for enhanced police services and community safety to include:

- suicide prevention
- firearms safety
- safe storage training
- including subsidized trigger locks and gun safes.

On April 19, 2022, the Kirkland City Council approved Resolution 5531:

- Authorized the City Manager to implement a gift card exchange for relinquished guns
- Kirkland residents
- Anonymous process

There is no clear-cut data to report on the success of other buy-back programs. However, even one firearm relinquished for destruction is one less gun that may be involved in a tragic accident, suicide or be stolen

PROCEDURES:

Participants relinquishing ownership of their firearms receive pre-paid debit cards, issued by the City of Kirkland in the following amounts:

- Obvious non-working firearms and pellet guns: \$25.00
- Bolt-action rifles and shotguns: \$100.00
- Handguns: \$200.00
- Rifles (AR or AK style rifles): \$250.00

Robust communication plan:

- Landing page on Department website
- Social media posts
- Press release

DEPARTMENT LANDING PAGE:

[Home](#) / [Government](#) / [Departments](#) / [Police Department](#) / [Community Resources](#) / [Guns for Gift Cards](#)

Guns for Gift Cards

Guns for Gift Cards is part of KPD's continuing efforts to reduce gun violence in the community and to reduce the likelihood of accidental injuries and deaths involving firearms by helping Kirkland community members get rid of unwanted guns. Any firearm traded in is one less gun that may be involved in a tragic accident, suicide, or stolen and later used in a violent crime.



Statistics

- Nationally, almost 60% of gun deaths are suicides (CDC, 2017)
- Firearm suicide attempts result in death 85% of the time, compared with 3% of suicide attempts by drug overdose (Harvard Public Health, 2016)
- 79% of incidents where a firearm was stolen, the firearms were unsecured inside a residence or vehicle at the time of theft (Kirkland Gun Crime Analysis, 2021)

Upcoming Guns for Gift Cards Events

- **Saturday, June 25, 9am-12pm**
- **Wednesday, July 20, 5pm-7pm**

At the Kirkland Justice Center, 11740 NE 118th Street, Kirkland 98034 [View Map](#). Please note there are security cameras at the Kirkland Justice Center for public safety.

How the Guns for Gift Cards exchange works:

No registration is required. Proof of Kirkland residency, such as a utility bill, is required to participate. Police staff will only visually check an address to confirm Kirkland residency. Participant identity is otherwise anonymous, as personnel will not log any identifying information.

DAY OF PROCEDURES:

Saturday, June 25, 9am-12pm

Wednesday, July 20, 5pm-7pm

- Residents were instructed to **stay in their cars**.
- Residents should bring their unwanted, and unloaded, firearms to the KJC in the **trunk of their car**, or if they do not have a trunk, **in the backseat**, or **otherwise out of arms reach**.
- Residents will be required to show proof of Kirkland residency – it can be a utility bill, ID, driver's license, or other means showing a City of Kirkland address. *Police staff will only visually check an address to confirm Kirkland residency. Participant identity is otherwise anonymous, as personnel will not log any identifying information.*
- An **officer will remove the gun(s)** from their vehicle.

Firearms exchanged through this program that are not stolen or linked to other crimes are melted down as part of the Police Department's annual firearm destruction process.

DAY OF STAFFING:

- (2) Commissioned Officers – Firearms Instructors to check residency, handle gun turn in, ensure guns are unloaded and safe and provide gift card.
- (1) administrative staff member to track gift cards and assign them to individual guns for auditing purposes
- (1) records staff member to run the serial numbers to check for stolen
- (1) Evidence Technician to tag firearm and enter into records management system
- (1) Deputy Chief



RESULTS:

1st Event :

60 firearms from 21 participants
for \$6,975 worth of gift cards.

Firearms turned in:

- AR-15/AK-47 type firearms: 2
- Handguns: 34
- Rifles/Shotguns: 22
- Obviously non-functioning firearms/pellet guns: 2



RESULTS:

2nd Event - 45 participants turned in 91 firearms for \$11,375 worth of gift cards.

Firearms turned in:

- AR-15/AK-47 type firearms: 3
- Handguns: 32
- Rifles/Shotguns:47
- Obviously non-functioning firearms/pellet guns: 9

The combined totals for KPD's two Guns for Gift Cards exchanges:

- 91 firearms (1st) + 60 firearms (2nd) =

151 firearms

- \$11,375 (1st) + \$6,975 (2nd) = **\$18,350 in gift cards**



QUESTIONS?