

Gun Turn-Ins Cheat Owners, Destroy Evidence

The gun control groups (Saint Joseph's Regional Medical Center and the Neighborhood Initiative), South Bend Indiana, has announced it's voluntary gun turn-in event, to be held on Dec. 11, 1999 at Saint Joseph's Health Center on Chapin St.. Gun owners may trade their "unwanted firearms" for \$50 gift certificates from local business establishments.

"While we have no objection to a citizen voluntarily choosing to surrender an unwanted firearm, these people should understand that most firearms are worth far more than the flat \$50 being offered," noted Mark Vanderberg, Webmaster for the Second Amendment Michiana Web Site. "Before rushing down to surrender a potentially very valuable firearm, we strongly suggest that the owner stop at a local gun shop to have the firearm properly appraised. The gun store may even be willing to buy it from you for substantially more money."

"If you don't care about the value of your guns," Vanderberg went on, "you should donate them to Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms. They can give them to people who can't afford to purchase a gun for self-protection."

The yellow pages of your telephone directory contain several more shops where appraisal and/or purchase services might be available, under the heading "Gun Shops."

Gun buy-back opponents have also reported an increase in gun thefts before these events. The amnesty offered in conjunction with events like this can be an invitation to steal; knowing there will be no legal consequence for the theft.

"Another major concern is the 'no questions asked' policy," said Vanderberg, "Stolen firearms, illegal guns such as sawed-off shotguns, and guns used in crimes are frequently turned in at such events. The 'no questions asked' policy means valuable evidence which might be used to send a hardened felon away will be melted down and lost to authorities forever."

"What a law abiding gun owner chooses to do with a firearm is his or her choice to make," Vanderberg concluded, "we just want to ensure that they aren't getting ripped off, and that criminals aren't free to walk the streets as a result of lost evidence." Plus it unlawful for any person except a licensed importer, licensed manufacturer, or licensed dealer, to engage in the business of such business to ship, transport, or receive any firearm in interstate or foreign commerce.

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P.S. I will be at the buyback to protest from 9:30 am – 3:30 pm. I hope to see some of you there.
E-mail me if you will be there or call me at home.