

*End Gun Violence Michigan*

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# Gun Safety: How Congregations Can Help

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Chris Yaw  
January, 2024



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# Began with Study....

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- ❖ How many guns are in Oakland County?
- ❖ How many people die from gun violence?
- ❖ Who's counting?

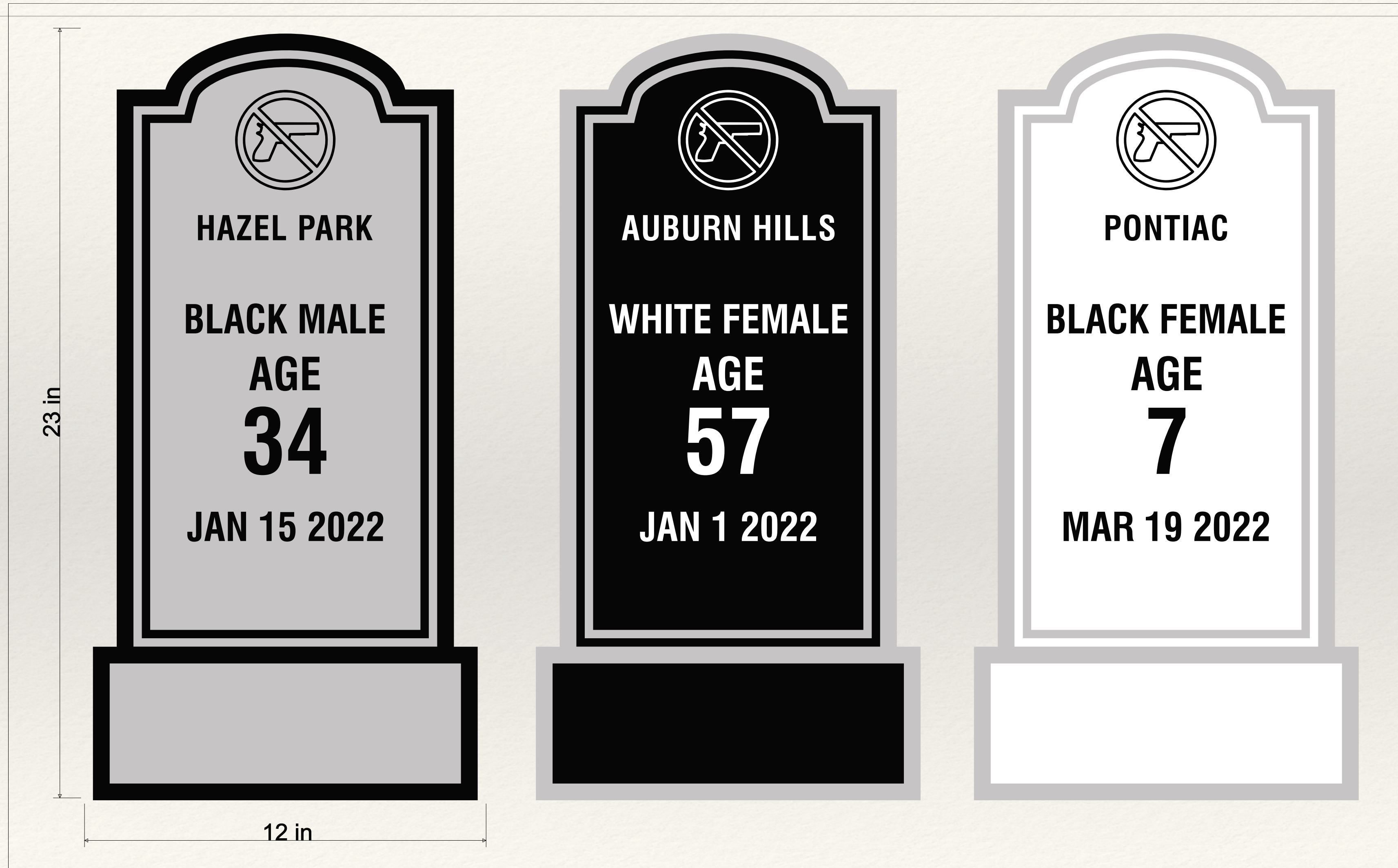
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# 2022 Oakland County Firearm Deaths

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- ❖ 123 firearm deaths
- ❖ 35 homicides
- ❖ 88 (over 70%) suicides
- ❖ 5 of those deaths were children.

# Research



# Gun Deaths Outdoor Display



# Oakland County's First Gun Buyback

## GUN BUYBACK EVENTS

**Saturday, October 22, 2022**

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. • 4 locations



**St. David's Episcopal Church**

16200 W. 12 Mile Road  
Southfield, MI 48076



**Royal Oak Police Department**

450 E. Eleven Mile Road  
Royal Oak, MI 48067



**Auburn Hills Police Department**

1899 N. Squirrel Road  
Auburn Hills, MI 48326



**Ferndale City Hall Parking Lot**

300 E. Nine Mile Road  
Ferndale, MI 48220



Exchange unwanted firearms for  
a gift card (while supplies last)\*:

**Handgun = \$100**

**Long gun = \$200**

**Assault rifle = \$300**

\* identifying information required



# October 2022 - Gun Buyback 1



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# October 2022 Gun Buyback 1

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- ❖ Gave away \$5,000 in gift cards in 20 minutes
- ❖ 2 mile lineup of cars
- ❖ 117 guns
- ❖ Half were handguns

# October 2022 - Gun Buyback 1



**ST. DAVID'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**UP TO  
\$200  
PER WEAPON**

# **GUN BUYBACK**

**BRING FUNCTIONAL FIREARMS  
UNLOADED WITH SAFETY ENGAGED  
Turn in your guns for gift cards!**

Target or Meijer Gift Cards

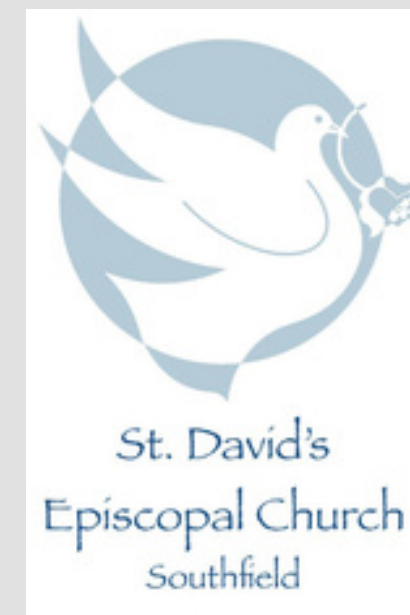
CO-SPONSORED BY:  
THE SOUTHFIELD  
POLICE DEPARTMENT  
*and* ST. DAVID'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



**DECEMBER 9, 2023**



**9 AM - 1 PM**



**\$200 FOR ASSAULT RIFLES**

# December 2023 - Gun Buyback 2



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# December 2023 Gun Buyback 2

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- ❖ Gave away \$19,000 in gift cards
- ❖ Lineup of cars
- ❖ 224 guns
- ❖ 117 handguns, 87 long guns

# December 2023 Gun Buyback 2: Protesters



# Why Buybacks: Decrease Suicide



- ❖ When a gun is in the home:
- ❖ 8x's higher for men
- ❖ 37x's higher for women
- ❖ Stanford University Study

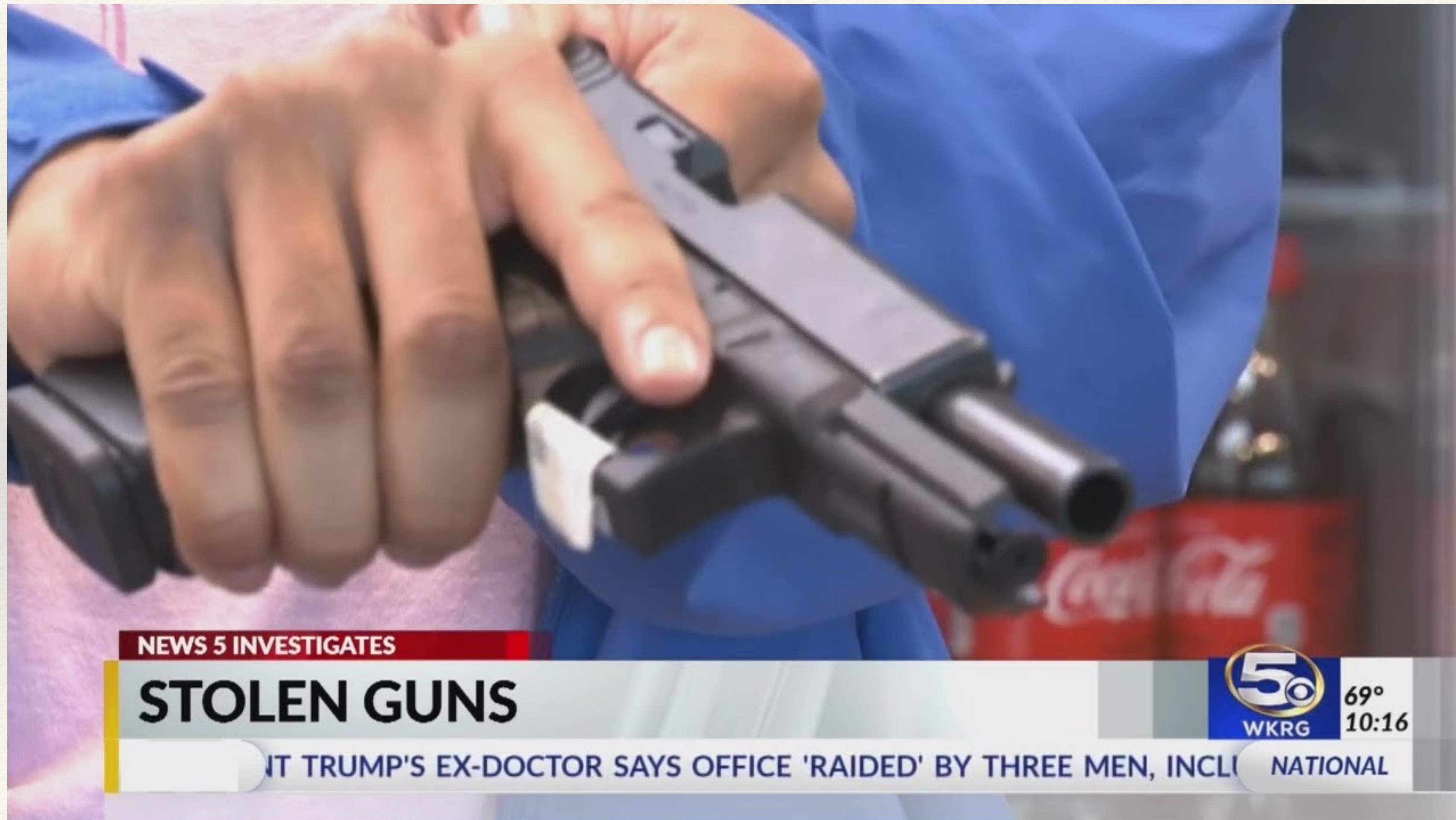
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# Why Buybacks: Guns and Children

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# Why Buybacks: Stolen Guns



# Why Buybacks: Unites Stakeholders



# Why Buybacks: Keeps Issue Alive



# Gun Buyback Fallout



# Gun Buyback 2 Fallout



# Gun Buyback 2 Fallout

[View Larger Images](#)

Colt Canada model AR-15 5.56 NATO Repair Parts  
#44735



GUNBUSTERS NE A+(12696)

Add Favorite Seller

### Seller's Other Items

Used Condition

FFL is not required

Ask Seller a Question

Watch

 Immediate Checkout - Credit Card

**NO** Credit Card Fee!

Current Bid

\$2,175.00

Starting Bid

\$20.00

Buy Now Price Was

\$0.00

No Reserve!

30 Bids

30 Bids | Bid History

Time Left | 15 min rule

Item has Ended

Ending Time

10/29/2023 8:58 PM

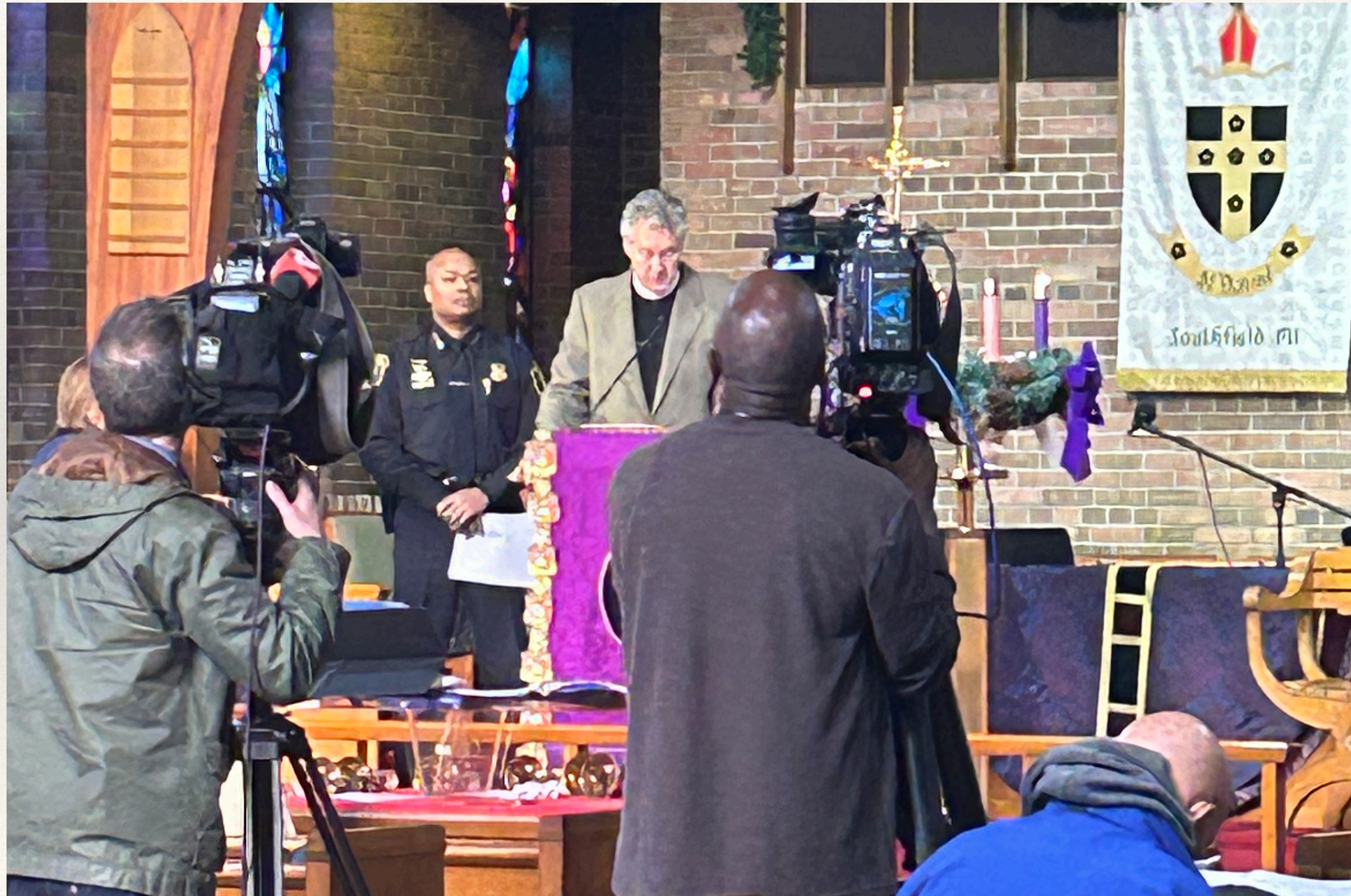
Item	1013736348
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Location	Bangor, ME 04401
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Shipping	USPS Priority Mail: \$36.00
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No international shipments.

# Gun Buyback 2 Fallout



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# Gun Buyback Fallout

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- ❖ Michigan State Police Pauses Gunbuster
- ❖ Researching other options for complete disposal
- ❖ Expected announcement in February

# The Detroit News

PICTORIAL

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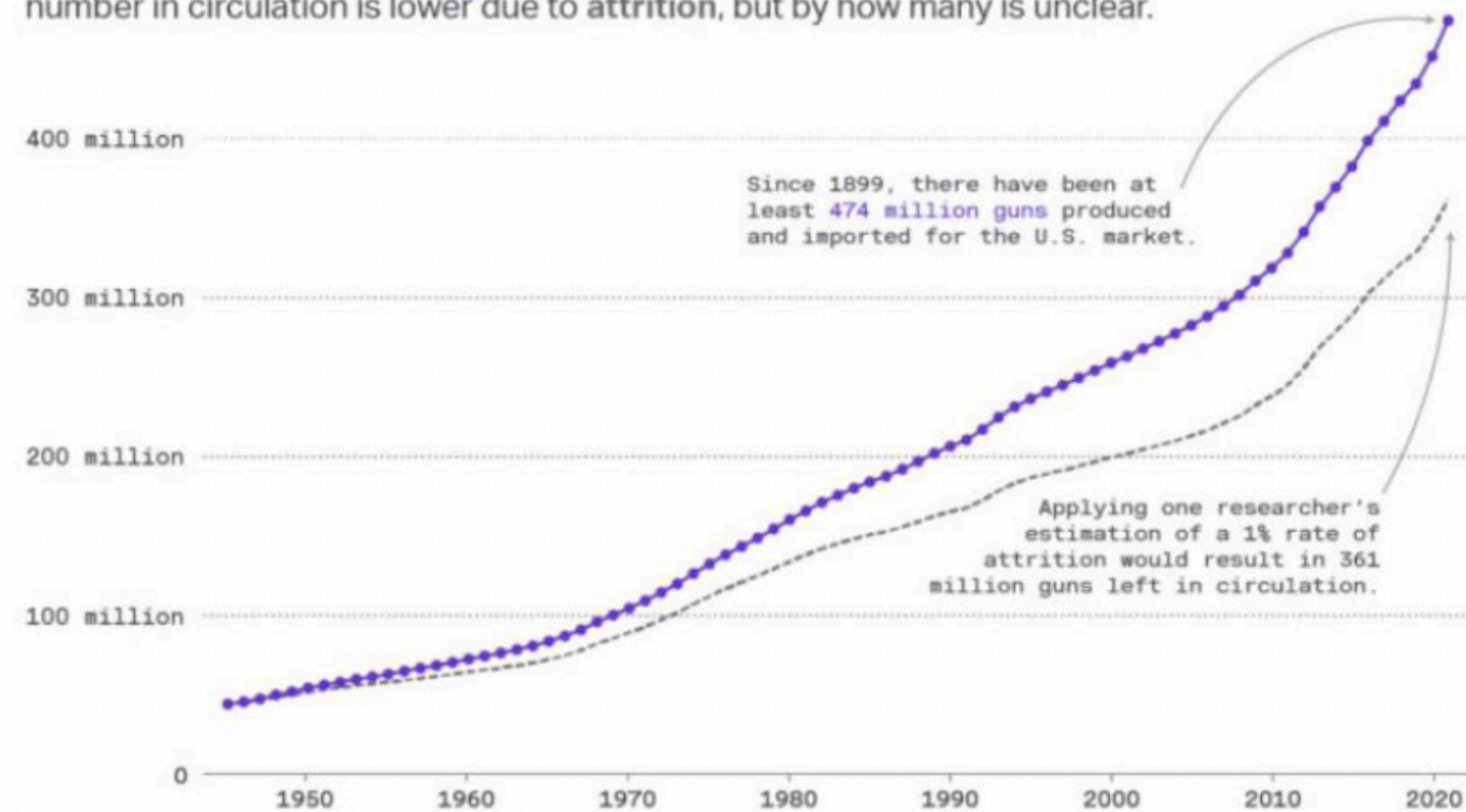
POLICE SUBMERGE  
CONFISCATED GUNS

Firearms taken from hold-up  
men by Detroit Police Depart-  
ment are thrown into  
Detroit River.

# Gun Disposal

## The U.S. Civilian Gun Stock Has Grown Significantly

In 2021, the total number of **guns produced** for the U.S. market reached 474 million. The number in circulation is lower due to attrition, but by how many is unclear.



Import data for 2021 from the ATF is not yet available. The total imports for 2021 used in chart are based on U.S. International Trade Commission import reports.

THE  
TRACE

Chip Brownlee for The Trace / Source: Analysis of ATF Data

- ❖ Gun Stock in the U.S. Doubled since 1990
- ❖ 1.4 guns per person

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# Gun Disposal: Michigan Regulations

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- ❖ Unwanted guns can be used by a municipality
- ❖ Can be sold to a licensed dealer
- ❖ Can be sent to MSP for destruction

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# Gun Disposal: Nationwide

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- ❖ Some states: Unwanted guns cannot be destroyed
- ❖ 9+ states mandate unwanted guns be sold, not destroyed
- ❖ Some municipalities prevent sale of unwanted guns: prevent resurfacing in crimes

# John 52, Virginia

*John has been unemployed for the last few years and suffering with depression. He owns several firearms but wants to get rid of them, partly for his own safety but also because of the wider harms he sees in the news. He is concerned about what others misusing them, so doesn't want to sell them.*

**“If you sell it to a gun shop, they’re going to sell it to someone else, and is that really achieving the goal? I don’t have it anymore, but somebody else does.”**

**“uncomfortable selling it to someone else without knowing what they’re capable of”**

**“I’ve contacted three local police agencies, none of them want to take them.”**



# Kelly, 41, Pennsylvania

*Mother of three small children. Her partner recently passed away following a violent altercation. He left several firearms hidden in her home. She wants to dispose of them but does not know how. She has reservations about contacting the law enforcement.*

**“They going to question you, where’d you find it, check your hands to see if you got a criminal background. Next thing, you’re being made to look like a criminal.”**



# Shane, 31, Nevada

*Army veteran who attended the Las Vegas mass shooting 2017. This experience prompted him to want to destroy his firearms. Researched various options (e.g. buybacks, amnesties). Wanted to ensure his firearms were destroyed NOT sold. Now keeps firearms in storage*

**“It’s actually harder to get rid of a gun than it is to get one”**

**“I wouldn’t feel comfortable knowing that it could go into somebody’s hands and eventually end up on the street”**

**“I came to accept the fact that I was stuck with it”.**



# Gun Disposal

