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PRESS RELEASE

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District Attorney Donovan, NYPD Commissioner Kelly Announce Staten Island Gun Buy-Back Initiative This Saturday

****2 S.I. Churches Open to Receive Guns in Exchange for \$200 Gift Cards****

STATEN ISLAND, NY – Richmond County District Attorney Daniel M. Donovan, Jr., New York City Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly and Staten Island clergy members today announced a gun buy-back program aimed at taking illegal, functioning guns off the streets by offering a \$200 cash reward for each eligible weapon surrendered.

The buy-back program will be held one day only, this Saturday, December 13, 2008 between 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM at St. Philips Baptist Church, 77 Bennett Street, and Brighton Heights Reform Church, 320 St. Marks Place.

District Attorney Donovan stated, "It is a year-round priority of my office and our dedicated police officers to remove illegal guns from our streets and prosecute those arrested. In this holiday season, I am hoping a \$200 cash card will act as an added incentive for gun owners to turn in their firearms – no questions asked."

New York City Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly stated, "Every gun we take off the street means one or more lives may be saved. New York City Police officers regularly engage in extremely dangerous undercover work to infiltrate gun trafficking rings. NYPD Detectives James Nemorin and Rodney Andrews gave their lives doing this work. This effort is a fitting tribute."

Commissioner Kelly reminded the public that a citywide "cash for guns" program provides \$100 to anyone who turns in a gun, no questions asked, at police station houses and police facilities in the transit system and housing developments in the five boroughs on any day.

For one day, this Saturday, people who own illegal guns will be able to trade them for \$200 bank cards at two churches in on the North Shore of Staten Island. All transactions will be completely anonymous – no questions asked. The bank cards can be used as a debit card or money can be withdrawn at any ATM. There is no limit to the number of guns participants can surrender, but they will only be paid for three.

Handguns, rifles and shotguns will be accepted. Functional BB guns and air pistols can be exchanged for a \$20 bank card. The guns must be functional. No guns will be accepted from active or retired law-enforcement officials. Plain clothes

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members of law enforcement will be on hand in the churches to accept the firearms. Guns must be in a paper or plastic bags or shoe boxes when brought to the churches. If transported by car, they must be in the trunk of the car.

Funding for the event is being provided jointly, by the Richmond County District Attorney's Office and the NYPD.

Participating Churches and their pastors are:

<p>St. Philips Baptist Church</p> <p>Rev. Tony Baker</p> <p>77 Bennett Street, SI, NY 10302</p> <p>(718) 442-5654</p>	<p>Brighton Heights Reformed Church</p> <p>Rev. James Seawood</p> <p>320 St. Marks Place, SI, NY 10301</p> <p>(718) 448-0165</p>
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District Attorney Donovan is joined by Staten Island pastors and Chief Detective Investigator Robert Turbiak (far l.) in announcing the borough's first gun buy-back program