



RICHMOND POLICE DEPARTMENT

GUN BUYBACK INITIATIVE 1/24/2023

In conjunction with the Robby Poblete Foundation and Liberation Church (RVA)

INTERIM POLICE CHIEF
RICHARD G. EDWARDS



EVENT HISTORY

Robby Poblete



On September 21, 2014, Robby Poblete was killed by gun violence in broad daylight at a busy intersection in Vallejo, Ca. He was 23 years old. At the time he was killed, Robby was working at a biotech company where he was also learning how to weld. He was on the verge of becoming a full-time employee and was already making plans to build his own weld shop.

The firearm used to end his life was obtained illegally, and then resold on the streets. One illegal gun has the potential to be used by countless people, committing countless crimes, impacting countless lives.

By turning in unwanted guns, people can prevent those firearms from being stolen and used for crime, or being accidentally used by a child in the home. Though it does not solve the problem on its own, it can play a part in overall efforts to curb gun violence. We propose an annual gun buyback program to sustain and strengthen these efforts to get unwanted and potentially dangerous guns out of circulation. Using the materials from the melted guns, we propose the implementation of two community programs that will offer **hope** and **opportunity** to the people of our communities.



EVENT HISTORY

Pati Navalta with the California-based Robby Poblete Foundation was instrumental in assisting the Richmond Police Department in hosting this event. She has hosted numerous gun buybacks across the country. “What I know without a doubt is the probability of a gun taking someone’s life drops to zero when they turn it in,” Navalta said. Together they created Richmond’s first drive-thru gun buyback program where people drove up with their unloaded guns in their trunks for officials to evaluate. Liberation Church, located at 5501 Midlothian Turnpike, graciously allowed the Richmond Police Department and the Poblete Foundation to use their parking lot as a drive-thru for those wanting to turn over weapons.



Pati Navalta



Liberation Church
5501 Midlothian
Turnpike

GIFT CARDS

\$250 for an assault weapon
\$200 for a handgun
\$150 for a rifle
\$25 for an inoperable gun



Foot Locker





GUN BUYBACK RESULTS

Liberation Church
5501 Midlothian
Turnpike Richmond,
VA

"People started lining up more than an hour before the event started. And throughout the morning, the line of cars overflowed onto Midlothian Turnpike and backed up parts of the busy road at times because of the turnout." (CBS6 NEWS)



\$67,500 in gift cards handed out

COMMUNITY

Hundreds of guns collected
in Richmond, buyback
program declared
'overwhelming success'

by: Kassidy Hammond
Posted: Aug 25, 2022 / 11:06 AM EDT



City of Richmond, VA
@CityRichmondVA · Follow



Thank you to everyone who came out and participated in the City's first annual gun buyback. It was a huge success. Due to the overwhelming response, we are shutting down for the day. We look forward to serving you at the next buyback. [#BuildingCommunity](#)

The 2022 Richmond Gun Buy Back program, aimed at reducing gun violence in the city, took



GUN BUYBACK RESULTS



5

**Assault
Weapons**



115

**Unknown
Classification**



117

Rifles/Long Guns



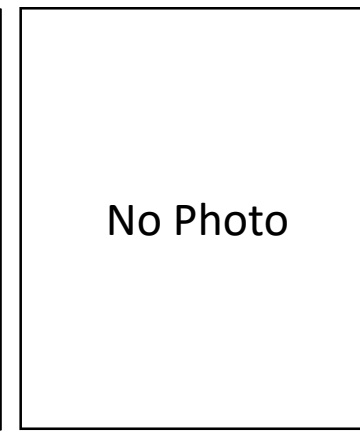
10

Inoperable



7

BB Guns



No Photo

227

Handguns

**474 TOTAL
WEAPONS**