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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**QUEENS DISTRICT ATTORNEY BROWN AND NYPD COMMISSIONER KELLY**  
**TEAM UP WITH LOCAL CLERGY FOR GUN BUYBACK PROGRAM**

*No Questions Asked; \$200 Pre-Paid Cash Cards for Operable Guns*

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown and Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly, joined by six local church pastors, today announced a gun buy-back program aimed at taking illegal guns off the streets by offering a \$200 cash reward for each eligible weapon surrendered. The gun buy-back event is scheduled for one day only – Saturday, February 21, 2009 – between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. at six drop-off locations in the Rockaways and South Queens.

District Attorney Brown said, “The ultimate goal of this law enforcement initiative is to get as many guns as possible off the streets of Queens County in order to reduce firearm violence and bring about safer neighborhoods for all residents. I very much appreciate the assistance of the congregations and their pastors who are participating in this effort. The support of the community is critical to the success of this program and emblematic of the level of cooperation needed by law enforcement to ensure the safety of everyone.”

Police Commissioner Kelly said, “Seven years ago, the NYPD started the Cash for Guns program to help get guns off of the streets. A cash reward of \$100 was provided for people who turned in guns at any police station in the city, no questions asked. Now, with the participation of our district attorneys, including District Attorney Brown in Queens, we are able to double the reward and involve churches and their pastors who literally put their faith in our efforts. Through this partnership, together, we are taking more guns off the streets than ever before.”

For one day, Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, people who own legal or illegal guns will be able to trade them for \$200 bank cards at six churches in the Rockaways and the southern part of Queens. 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 The bank cards can be used as a debit card or money can be withdrawn at any ATM.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.

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Plainclothes police officers, QDA Detective Investigators and members of the NYPD Queens District Attorney Squad will be on hand in the churches to accept the firearms. Participants are encouraged to bring unloaded weapons in paper or plastic bags or shoes 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 Queens District Attorney's Office and the NYPD.

The gun buy-back program is centered on neighborhoods in the Rockaways and South Queens, where homicides increased from 43 to 71 in 2008.

Participating churches and their pastors are:

- Macedonia Baptist Church, 330 Beach 67<sup>th</sup> Street in Far Rockaway  
Rev. Evan Gray
- First Baptist Church, 15-10 Redfern Avenue in Far Rockaway  
Rev. Duane M. Sleet
- Praise Tabernacle, 108-11 Sutphin Boulevard in Jamaica  
Rev. Ceaser Beckett
- Evangel Temple, 227-10 Merrick Boulevard in Laurelton  
Pastor Alice Evers
- Majority Baptist Church, 115-21 Farmers Boulevard in Jamaica  
Rev. Scott Brown
- Presbyterian Baptist Church, 190-04 119<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Saint Albans  
Rev. Dr. Edward Davis

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**Note to Editors: Press release e-version posted at [www.queensda.org](http://www.queensda.org).**