



# City of Orange Township

29 North Day Street  
Orange, New Jersey 07050

## ***News Release***

For Release: March 19, 2009

Contact: Lieutenant John Wade, Executive Officer, Office of the Police Director  
973-266-4111 Ext: 5026

**Orange Police Expand Violence Reduction Initiative To Include Gun Buyback and Gun Locks. Buyback Program in Memory of Hassan Miller, son of Councilman Hassan Abdul-Rasheed. Buybacks will be held Saturday, March 28, 2009, and Saturday, April 4, 2009, 4 pm-8pm, at The Church of the Epiphany, 105 Main Street. Orange.**

Mayor Eldridge Hawkins, Jr., and Police Director John E. Rappaport announced today that the Orange Police Department has implemented a gun safety initiative in conjunction with the federal program known as "Operation Trigger Lock". The City of Orange program is a three-pronged approach that includes enforcement, prevention and awareness, plus a gun buyback program.

### **Gun Buyback**

On Saturday, March 28, 2009, and Saturday, April 4, 2009, 4 pm-8pm, the Orange Police Department will host a gun buyback program at The Church of the Epiphany, 105, Main Street. Orange. On these two dates members of the Orange Police Department will be on hand to accept and pay cash for surrendered firearms with no questions asked. The payment schedule for weapons surrendered is as follows:

Handguns ( Revolvers) - \$ 50 Shotguns or Rifles - \$ 70 Semi automatic pistols ( 9mm, 40 cal, etc) - \$ 100  
Assault Rifles ( AR-15, AK-47, etc) - \$ 150

Those participating in the Gun Buyback need to be aware that the law requires that weapons being transported shall be carried unloaded and contained in a closed and fastened case, gunbox, securely tied package or locked in the trunk of the automobile in which they are being transported.

### **Gun Locks and Public Awareness**

The Permits and Licensing Unit and the Community Service Bureau will be distributing free Master Lock gun locks and gun safety booklets in conjunction with the gun buyback initiative. During this event, members of the Orange Police Department will be on hand to demonstrate proper loading and unloading techniques, and show firearms owners how to make firearms more secure.

### **Statement by Mayor Eldridge Hawkins, Jr.**

"Hassan Miller lost his life last month to gun violence. We must get more guns off our streets and stop the epidemic of gun deaths. In Hassan's memory, we are launching a gun buyback program in Orange. Orange is already carrying out an unprecedented crackdown on street crime, gang violence, drug sales, and quality of life crimes. Under the leadership of Police Director John Rappaport, there was a 11% decrease in crime in the last six months of 2008. We recognize that making arrests is not enough. That's why we have initiated our gun buyback, gun lock, and gun safety awareness program. I am pleased that, with the support of the City Council, we were able to fund the buyback program with funds recovered in a major narcotics arrest last year."

**Statement by Councilman Hassan Abdul-Rasheed**

“My son, Hassan C. Miller was killed on February 11, 2009, as a result of gun violence. I cannot begin to put into words, the void that his death has left in my life and in my heart. To lose a child is an un-bearable, overwhelming load that no parent should ever have to bear.

Gun violence is preventable with programs such as this one. It is my hope that another family will never have to endure the pain and heartache that has plagued my family since the tragedy occurred.

Hassan was a handsome, young man; who was very easy-going and calm-natured. He had a good sense of humor and a great smile; a smile that easily brightened anyone’s day. It seemed like a bad dream when I got the call, early that Wednesday morning and it still is a nightmare.

However, Buy Back programs and dedications such as this one, allow for Hassan’s death and other victims of gun violence to be used as an example to those that are considering gun violence. Life is precious and life is delicate. Life should never be taken for granted and a life should never be taken by another individual.

I would like to thank the Mayor of Orange, the Members of the Orange City Council the Orange Police Department, the citizens of Orange and the families of all those that have lost a loved one to gun violence.”

#####