



LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

COMPTON STATION

PRESS ADVISORY



GIFTS FOR GUNS

November 17, 2009

WHO: The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Compton Station

WHAT: The Compton Sheriff's Station, with the assistance of the City of Compton, local community organizations, churches and businesses, will host a firearm surrender program for the holidays.

WHEN: Saturday, December 5, 2009 10:00 A.M.
Sunday, December 6, 2009 10:00 A.M.

WHERE: Parking lot of Ralphs Super Market,
280 East Compton Blvd., Compton, CA 90220

NOTE: There will be a media briefing lead by Captain Diane Walker from the Compton Sheriff's Station at the exchange site. Other members of the Sheriff's Headquarters Bureau will be present to assist the program.

For additional information, please contact:

Sgt. Carmichael Octave
Compton Sheriff's Station
301 S. Willowbrook Avenue, Compton CA 90220
310.605.6579

Check the link below for media coverage on the Gifts for guns program

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-nOzf1rmRHU>



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BACKGROUND

The City of Compton has been challenged this year with gang and gun violence, which the department continues to address aggressively. Coupled with the aggressive enforcement effort aimed at reducing the gang activity and resulting violence and criminal acts, the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department has implemented several programs to better involve local citizens to help create a safer community in Compton.

Several years ago, Compton Station launched a new crime tip line of (888) COMPTON, where anonymous information can be provided to report criminal behavior. Additionally, the Sheriff's Department is asking for local residents to safely surrender any firearms for the holidays. This program hopes to reduce the number of firearms in the community, which could potentially be stolen or used in criminal activity.

As the holidays are a time of giving, the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, with the assistance of the City of Compton, local churches and community organizations, and with Best Buy, Ralphs Grocery and Target are offering \$100 gift cards for each firearm surrendered during this program to either Best Buy, Ralphs Grocery or Target stores.

This largest challenge to this program is to ensure that the local residents understand that this is a completely anonymous process, where we will ask no questions of the person surrendering the firearm. All weapons will be collected by Sheriff's personnel with the assistance of local volunteers at a booth set up in the parking lot of the Ralphs shopping center in Compton, on December 5th and 6th.

The purpose of this program is to reward local residents for assisting in creating a safer community in Compton. Our program is inclusive of all aspects of this community as we work together to help keep Compton safe for the holidays.