

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

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Theodore F. L. Housel

Prosecutor

NEWS RELEASE

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MAYS LANDING— Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel wants to remind citizens in the county that the Gun Surrender Program begins tomorrow and people can drop off guns anonymously in Atlantic City and Pleasantville, get cash back and in turn make the streets and communities safer.

The program run with the Atlantic City and Pleasantville Police Departments and a result of community activism and initiative, begins at noon and ends at 6 p.m. on both Saturday and Sunday. In addition to drop-off locations, a Prosecutor's Office Mobile Unit will pick up guns at the homes of residents who do not wish to go to the specific sites. Residents are asked to contact the Prosecutor's Office at (609) 909-7800 if they wish to have their weapons picked up. They can also contact the Atlantic City Police Department at 609-347-5780 or the Pleasantville Police Department at 609-641-6100 to set up a time to drop off weapons, Prosecutor Housel said.

The program, funded by AtlantiCare and other sponsors, will pay \$100 for assault weapons, \$70 for handguns and \$50 for rifles and shotguns. Authorities will also pay for inoperable weapons, however, the payment will be much lower.

Locations for the program will be as follows:

- Atlantic City Fire Hall Station #1 located on Maryland and Atlantic Avenue
- Atlantic City Fire Hall Station #4, located on California and Atlantic Avenue
- Pleasantville Fire Station, located at Washington Avenue and First Street

Prosecutor Housel emphasized how important it is to "take these dangerous tools of destruction" off of the streets. "We know that criminals are not going to drop off their weapons, but if a parent is doing fall cleaning and discovers a gun in their child's bedroom, please turn it in."

Anyone with information involving serious crimes is asked to call the Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office at 609-909-7800 or go to the Prosecutor's Office Web site at <http://www.acpo.org/tips.html> and provide information by filling out the form anonymously on the Submit a Tip page. People can also call Crime Stoppers

at 609-652-1234 or 1-800-658-8477 (TIPS) or visit the Crime Stoppers Website at <http://www.crimestoppersatlantic.com/>. Crime Stoppers offers cash rewards for information leading to the arrest and indictment of those who commit crimes in Atlantic County.