# 2A Maryland

**Baltimore Gun Buy-back August 12, 2023 – Letters to Editor – Baltimore Sun**

**Buyback enriched some but made no one safer** (published 8/12/2023)
The next time someone wants to spend $50,000 of donated money to buy illegal guns from Baltimore's "young people with access to guns" ("At West Baltimore gun buyback, leaders hope to lower city firearms supply: 'Launch a place of hope,' " Aug. 5), someone should ask out loud how anyone with a shred of common sense thinks that will work.

As one of the many "middle-aged or older" sellers at this event at Edmondson Village, I personally made out pretty well by selling some old guns for much more than what they were worth, so thank you very much. But the event's premise as articulated by Sen. Jill Carter in The Sun that one "of the biggest root causes (of youth violence in the city) is access to guns," is plainly and simply stupid. Any kid who acquires a gun illegally and uses it to harm or threaten another person is a criminal with evil in his or her heart regardless of how that evil found its way there. Take that person out of the equation and the gun is an inanimate object which will never cause harm to anyone.

Conservatives have been saying this for decades. But "compassionate" folks like the Rev. Michael Murphy and Senator Carter who are under the delusion that every kid is good at heart, do not want to hold bad people accountable for their actions. So they take the path of least resistance, which is to try to take guns away. This includes the organizers of this failed buyback event as well as most of the Maryland General Assembly who throw good money after bad, time and time again, to no avail. Considering the current level of violence wreaking havoc in Baltimore, how's that approach been working out?
— Stephen Kranz, Westminster

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**Gun buyback makes no sense** (published 8-13-2023)
It was apparent that a gun "buyback" occurred in West Baltimore but less noticed was the number of handguns not turned in ("At West Baltimore gun buyback, leaders hope to lower city firearms supply: 'Launch a place of hope,' " Aug. 5).

Many of the firearms shown in images were rifles. How many rifles were involved in the 300-plus murders take place each year in Baltimore? How many pistols were involved — and in the hands of individuals who could not legally purchase them — during that same period? I would almost bet that any guns turned in did not belong to anyone who ever actually planned to use them.

I am also confused as to how someone or organization can buy "back" something unless they first owned it. Wouldn't they have needed to own it, sell it and then repurchase it to buy it back? Please explain.
— Frank Mitchell, Havre de Grace

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**Raise the ante on gun buybacks** (published 8-14-2023)
Shoutouts to the Archdiocese of Baltimore for organizing the recent $50,000 gun buyback program at Edmondson Village Shopping Center, to the folks who traded guns for cash in exchange for a safer Baltimore and to the police and volunteers who ran the program ("At West Baltimore gun buyback, leaders hope to lower city firearms supply: 'Launch a place of hope,' " Aug. 5).

In one way, it succeeded but in others, it didn't. It resulted in 356 firearms turned in to be destroyed. However, most who showed up were older folks. Almost none were teens. They are the ones who, for example, used guns with horrific results: an adult shot five times and killed by a squeegee worker or the gun rampage in Brooklyn neighborhood, which was the largest mass shooting in Baltimore history. Their guns were not apparent in the buyback program.

Some officials and organizers at the event acknowledged in part that the cash envelopes — containing either $200 for those turning in handguns, rifles or shotguns, or $300 for assault weapons — "would not be enough to convince teens, who have increasingly become both victims and suspects in city gun violence." We should consider alternatives.

Perhaps a consortium of Baltimore churches and synagogues could also ante up funds to support this teen buyback program, matching or exceeding the $50,000 donated by the Catholic Church. This would be a consortium promoting safety and hope for a better Baltimore. After all, the Edmondson program ran out of money at 1 p.m. instead of the planned 4 p.m.
— Don Killgallon, Cockeysville

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**What a scam at Edmondson Village** (published 8-15-2023)
I attended the recent Baltimore gun buyback at the Edmondson Village Shopping Center. What a scam ("At West Baltimore gun buyback, leaders hope to lower city firearms supply: 'Launch a place of hope,' " Aug. 5).

At 10 a.m., I joined what was then the end of the line at shopping center. After 2 hours and 45 minutes, I was at the front and told they had run out of money — $50,000, to be exact, but they could give me a $100 Target gift card. I was the last one to get paid.

The .25 caliber semiautomatic handgun I had was supposed to be worth $200. The police were only doing what they were told, so I don't blame them. Who I blame is Mayor Brandon Scott, who then went on TV to tell us what a success this was.
— J. Michael Collins, Reisterstown

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