



El Paso County Gun Buyback Program

*Presentation to Commissioners Court
August 21, 2023*

Background

- In 2020, firearms were the leading cause of death in children and youth 0-24 years old in the U.S. - resulting in 10,197 deaths*
- Firearms are the leading mechanism of death in pediatric suicides and homicides*
- Gun buyback programs:
 - provide compensation to individuals who turn over firearms
 - popular local mechanisms to act on gun violence
 - hard to measure for impact but most effective if they are part of a broader effort to reduce gun violence

**["Firearm-Related Injuries and Deaths in Children and Youth," American Academy of Pediatrics, December 2022](#)*

Harris County and City of Houston

- Partnership – Interlocal agreement in place with each entity contributing \$1M
- Funded through ARPA funds – at least 8 events in Harris County
- Harris County SO and Houston PD lead entities
- Part of Mayor Turner’s “One Safe Houston” violence prevention initiative
- 4 events so far – over 4,200 weapons collected
- [Video on June 10th Gun Buyback Event](#)

Mayor Sylvester Turner
CITY OF HOUSTON

Commissioner Rodney Ellis
HARRIS COUNTY PCT ONE

PRESENT

GUN BUYBACK



Turn in your firearms to receive gift cards.*
NO GHOST GUNS WILL BE ACCEPTED

⚠ Transport your firearms unloaded and in the trunk of your vehicle. ⚠
*Gift card quantities are limited and subject to availability.

SATURDAY
JUNE 10, 2023

TIME
8:00am - 12:00pm

\$50
Gift card for non-functioning firearm

\$100
Gift card for rifles or shotguns

\$150
Gift card for handguns

\$200
Gift card for a semi-automatic rifle

LOCATION: NRG Stadium - Yellow Lot | 9051 S. Main. (S. Main between McNee and Murworth)



Rodney Ellis
COMMISSIONER
PRECINCT ONE



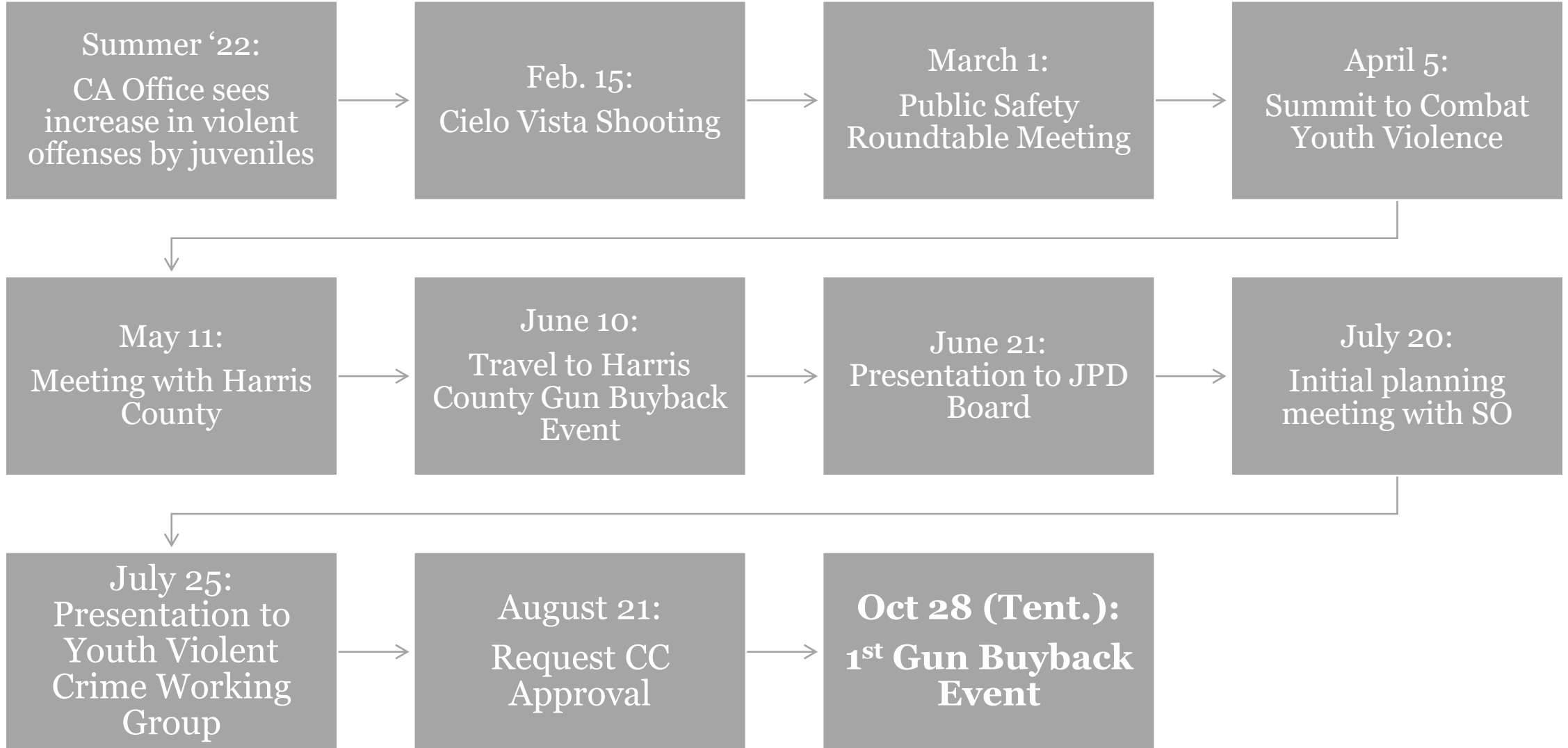
GunSafety4Bexar

- Bexar County – approved \$37M in ARPA funding for gun violence prevention and mental health resources
 - Public education and outreach campaign
 - Mental health support
 - Gun Safe distribution
- Gun Lock Program
 - Partnership with University Health
 - Goal to stem juvenile crime due to easy access to guns



El Paso County Gun Buyback Program

Timeline



Best Practices

- No questions asked / anonymous participation
- Gift card / compensation structure should incentivize participation and de-incentivize opportunists and scams
- All guns and ammunition should be destroyed after appropriate testing
- Event should be held in neutral / community-centered locations that are safe and easily accessible
- Outreach and marketing efforts should target at-risk populations (i.e., at-risk youth)
- Community partnerships and participation as part of a broader gun safety campaign are critical to success

Proposed Program

■ **Goals:**

- Reduce the number of firearms in the community, particularly among juveniles
- Raise public awareness of community and youth violence
- Provide education on safe storage of firearms
- Connect violence prevention organizations

■ **Budget Request: Up to \$300,000**

- *Source - El Paso County ARPA Funds*
- *To include 2-3 Gun Buyback and community-centered gun safety events*
- *Staffing and operations expenses*
- *Marketing/Communications expenses*
- *Gift cards*

■ **Target Date: October 28, 2023**

■ **Target Location: Ascarate Park**

- Alt Location – El Paso County Coliseum

Request

- *Approve and authorize the transfer of \$300,000 from ARP-1530 Operating Contingencies to establish ARP-4030 Gun Buyback Program. Funding is available in GARPLAN21-CONTINGENCY.*



Discussion and Questions

