



CITY OF HOUSTON - CITY COUNCIL

Meeting Date: 8/23/2022

Item Creation Date:

HPD - Gun Buyback Gift Cards

Agenda Item#: 9.

Summary:

BLACKHAWK NETWORK, INC for spending authority for Gift Cards for Gun Buyback Program for the Houston Police Department - \$539,000.00 - Grant Fund

Background:

The Chief of the Houston Police Department (HPD) and the Interim Chief Procurement Officer request City Council approve spending authority in the amount of \$539,000.00 to load gift cards for the purpose of incentivizing individuals to surrender eligible firearms at the Gun Buyback Events with funds the City received through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

The Gun Buyback programs give Houstonians a safe and alternative way to surrender unwanted firearms and the City provides compensation for their surrendered firearms. This provides an opportunity to mitigate potential harmful actions of in-home invasions, burglary of motor vehicles where guns could potentially be used in violent crimes, and/or access by a minor. Additionally, many people inherit firearms and do not know how to properly dispose of them. Buyback programs are widely supported as a means to reduce firearms within a city.

The Gun Buyback Events are a part of Mayor Turner's One Safe Houston initiative, are open to the public, and no identification or government ID is required to participate. In exchange for surrendering a weapon to law enforcement personnel at the designated firearm collection site, the person donating the firearm will receive a gift card in \$50 increments depending on the firearm type.

HPD coordinated with the Strategic Purchasing Division (SPD) to ensure all procurement rules were followed in the selection of a vendor to procure the gift cards. In preparation of subsequent Gun Buyback Events, HPD will wire transfer to vendor **BLACKHAWK NETWORK, INC** up to \$539,000.00 of ARPA funds to upload onto gift cards to be transmitted back to the City for distribution by the City to the ultimate card recipient. The City shall pay a fee of up to \$9,000.00 for the prepaid cards related to the City's gun buyback program.

A presentation of the Gun Buyback Event was given at the **Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee** meeting on June 15, 2022 and July 21, 2022. Copies of these presentations can be accessed through the PSHS Committee portal at:

<https://www.houstontx.gov/council/committees/publicsafety.html>

Fiscal Note:

No Fiscal Note is required on grant items.

DocuSigned by:

Troy Finner
Chief of Police

DocuSigned by:

Jed Greenfield
Interim Chief Procurement Officer

Amount and Source of Funding:

\$539,000.00
ARPA Recovery Fund
Fund 5309

Contact Information:

Rhonda Smith, CFO and Deputy Director (713) 308-1708
Sonja O'Dat, Council Liaison (713) 308-1728

ATTACHMENTS:

Description Type

Description

Funding Documents
Signed RCA
Signed Addendum
Verification of Grant Funding .YL

Type

Financial Information
Signed Cover sheet
Contract/Exhibit
Backup Material