



Rashi Kesarwani  
Councilmember District 1

CONSENT CALENDAR

January 26, 2021

*(Continued from November 10, 2020)*

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Councilmember Rashi Kesarwani (author), Mayor Jesse Arreguin and Councilmember Cheryl Davila (co-sponsors)

SUBJECT: Budget Referral to Reinstate Partial Funding for the Gun Buyback Program Previously Authorized by City Council

RECOMMENDATION

Refer to the FY 2020-21 November Amendment to the Annual Appropriations Ordinance (AAO #1) \$40,000 to reinstate partial funding for the Gun Buyback Program—originally proposed by Councilmember Cheryl Davila and authorized by the City Council on Nov. 27, 2018.

FISCAL IMPACTS

Funding of \$40,000 would enable the City of Berkeley to: remove guns from households by providing cash or gift cards to owners of operational rifles and shotguns (value of approximately \$100) and to owners of operational handguns and assault weapons (value of approximately \$200); and cover staff time necessary to support a gun buyback program.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Gun violence in Berkeley is on the rise, following regional and national trends.<sup>1</sup> According to Berkeleyside, the City of Berkeley saw 20 shootings in 2018, 28 shootings in 2019, and 32 shootings so far in 2020 with more than two months remaining in the year.<sup>2</sup> As a result of this violence, our community has lost four individuals from fatal shootings and at least 10 others have been wounded. Prior to this year, the last fatal

<sup>1</sup> "Shootings and Gun Deaths Continue To Rise At Alarming Rate In Large U.S. Cities," Aug. 2, 2020, Forbes, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/tommybeer/2020/08/02/shootings-and-gun-deaths-continue-to-rise-at-alarming-rate-in-large-us-cities/#234142966f0f>.

<sup>2</sup> "Annual crime report sees shootings rise for the third straight year," Oct. 15, 2020, Berkeleyside, [https://www.berkeleyside.com/2020/10/15/2020-berkeley-crime-report-shootings-rise-use-of-force-stop-data?doing\\_wp\\_cron=1603673460.1734480857849121093750](https://www.berkeleyside.com/2020/10/15/2020-berkeley-crime-report-shootings-rise-use-of-force-stop-data?doing_wp_cron=1603673460.1734480857849121093750).

Budget Referral to Reinstate Partial Funding for Gun Buyback Program

shooting occurred in 2016, when 22-year-old Alex Goodwin Jr. was killed outside his home near San Pablo Park.<sup>3</sup>

Gun buybacks are programs aimed at voluntarily decreasing the prevalence of firearms in a community by offering cash or gift cards in exchange for working guns. A meta-analysis from Dec. 2019 in *Current Trauma Reports* suggests that gun buybacks should be included in broader violence reduction strategies. “Buybacks in conjunction with other methods have been shown to be successful in reducing the number of firearms that could lead to injury and death,” the authors write.<sup>4</sup> Further, according to current academic research, gun buybacks “can influence public perception of how authorities are dealing with gun violence and serve as opportunities to educate communities about gun violence reduction strategies.”<sup>5</sup> A gun buyback program can be a piece of our communal effort to reimagine public safety.

### BACKGROUND

Councilmember Cheryl Davila submitted the original referral to fund a gun buyback program to our Annual Appropriations Ordinance Process in Nov. 2018, which was approved on consent (see attachment A). An integral part of this initial Council item referenced a partnership between Berkeley Police Department and a non-profit, the Robby Poblete Foundation (RPF). Given that gun violence has been responsible for four deaths in the last ten months alone, this item recommends reinstating funding for a gun buyback program. According to the RPF website, 190 firearms were removed from the City of Richmond during a gun buyback event; and 900 were removed from San Francisco during a gun buyback held in June 2018.<sup>6</sup>

### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

No direct impact on environmental sustainability.

### CONTACT

Councilmember Rashi Kesarwani, District 1 (510) 981-7110

### Attachments:

- A: Item #22 “Budget Referral: Gun Buyback Program and Art of Peace Program

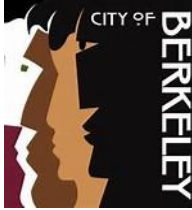
---

<sup>3</sup> The 2020 Berkeley gunfire map, Updated Oct. 23, Berkeleyside, <https://www.berkeleyside.com/2020/10/03/2020-berkeley-gunfire-map>.

<sup>4</sup> A Review of Gun Buybacks,” Nov. 1, 2019, Current Trauma Reports, <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s40719-019-00180-8>.

<sup>5</sup> “Gun buybacks: What the research says,” Jan. 9, 2020, Harvard Kennedy School Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy, <https://journalistsresource.org/studies/gun-violence/gun-buybacks-what-the-research-says/>.

<sup>6</sup> RPF Gun Buyback Program, <http://robbypobletefoundation.org/rpf-gun-buyback-program/>.



Cheryl Davila  
Councilmember  
District 2

CONSENT CALENDAR  
November 27, 2018

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Councilmember Cheryl Davila  
Subject: Budget Referral: Gun Buyback and Art of Peace Program

RECOMMENDATION

AAO Budget Referral to the FY19 (2018/2019) November 2018 AAO Budget Process to set aside \$60,000 to frontload funds to bring the Robby Poblete Foundation Gun Buyback, Art of Peace and Work in Progress programs to Berkeley.

The Robby Poblete Foundation coordinates all aspects of the programs, including promotional materials, promotion on platforms and local calendars, press releases, press conferences and media contacts, coordinating the buyback with the police department, purchasing and release of gift cards, breaking down the guns free of charge (if desired), recruiting artists, coordinating the artist competition and selection process, coordinating the Art of Peace unveiling and event, and connecting youth and families with apprenticeships, job training and placement programs.

The Robby Poblete Foundation will also partner with the City of Berkeley to reach out to foundations, local businesses and individual donors to cover the costs of the program, including the gift cards. All efforts will be made to fundraise and refund the full \$60,000.

The City of Berkeley needs to provide the following:

- **Police time** to coordinate the gun buyback with the Foundation, the day-of to accept, record and check firearms to ensure that none of those accepted are stolen and to staff the event to ensure safety, as well as transport and storage of guns until they are shipped for breakdown.
- **Front-loading the \$60,000** to cover an estimated 400 firearms at \$100 and \$200 per a buyback. This estimate is based on Berkeley's centrality, timing since the last buyback in the area and recent buyback programs. Any funds not used will be returned to the City. If additional funds are needed, the Foundation covers the cost and works to apply for additional funds. We do not want to turn guns away.
- **Participation:** promoting programs and events, identifying businesses for the Foundation to approach, recruiting and selecting artists, and participating in public and media events.

## FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

\$60,000 for a contract with a community youth provider. Staff time creating and reviewing RFP applications, and creating and monitoring the contract.

## BACKGROUND

The Robby Poblete Foundation is a registered 501©(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to reduce gun violence by collecting unwanted firearms through gun buybacks, and transform them into instruments of hope and opportunity through art and vocational skills programs.

Pati Navalta started the program after she lost her son to gun violence four-years ago. From this tragedy she started the Foundation to stop gun violence and is supporting work across the Bay Area, and Los Angeles and Georgia in replicating the program. The gun buyback program has been implemented in Richmond, Vallejo, San Francisco and Oakland.

The program has collected over 1,000 firearms, including handguns, rifles and assault weapons. In addition, they have collected boxes of stars, rocket launchers and knives. By providing gift cards from local businesses, they are getting firearms off of the streets while supporting the local economy. The gun buyback events include free gun locks, too.

The guns are then broken down and given back to the community to create public art. A design competition is promoted and community artists submit proposals that are reviewed by a community panel. Selected artists use the broken down gun parts and shells to create Art of Peace. The art work is then unveiled during a community event and visited by schools and programs to raise awareness toward violence prevention. Young people who are interested can then participate in the Work in Progress program that works with 5 apprenticeship programs to train young people including their family members, including people who are formerly incarcerated and homeless, in a trade and then place them in employment with life and job coaching support.

Councilmember Davila's office, the Berkeley Police Department and City Manager's office attended a presentation from the Robby Poblete Foundation, and all shared interest in and support for all three programs for Berkeley.

## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

The program not only removes guns from the street and community that can be used to harm, but creates public awareness about how communities can participate in gun violence prevention. It creates a culture of hope and possibility to counter the despair and culture of violence that leads to gun-related deaths and injuries.

## CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Cheryl Davila 510.981.7120

## ATTACHMENTS

- Robby Poblete Foundation overview PowerPoint



Robby Poblete Foundation

*Transforming unwanted firearms into instruments of hope and opportunity*

---

# Overview

# Who We Are

---

The Robby Poblete Foundation is a registered 501©(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to reduce gun violence by collecting unwanted firearms through gun buybacks, and transform them into instruments of hope and opportunity through art and vocational skills programs.



# Our Programs

---

- **Annual Gun Buyback:** Prevent unwanted firearms from falling into the wrong hands by holding gun buybacks
- **Art of Peace:** Transform unwanted firearms into instruments of hope and opportunity
- **Work In Progress:** Work with local unions, businesses and county office of education and correctional facilities to raise awareness about opportunities in skilled trades, provide introductory training programs, and help with apprenticeships, certifications and job placement. Focused on youth, young adults and ex offenders.





Robby Poblete Foundation



---

# Gun Buyback



# Gun Buyback

AUGUST 26, 2017 // SOLANO COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

## BUYBACK OUR FUTURE

### 2017 SOLANO COUNTY GUN BUYBACK

**TURN IN GUNS FOR VISA PREPAID CARDS OR GIFT CARDS, NO QUESTIONS ASKED**  
 Please transport your firearms unloaded and in the trunk of your vehicle  
 Up to \$100 in Visa prepaid cards or gift cards for each rifle, shotgun and handgun  
 Up to \$200 in Visa prepaid cards or gift cards for each assault weapon, as classified in the State of CA

THIS EVENT IS BEING PRESENTED BY:



**THE ERIC REYES**  
FOUNDATION

A registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization  
Federal Tax ID: 81-3558866



**Robby Poblete Foundation**

A registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization  
Federal Tax ID: 82-0740692

SPONSORED BY









IN PARTNERSHIP WITH


Senator Bill Dodd • Assembly Member Wenddy Grayson • Solano County District Attorney's Office • Solano County Supervisor Eric Hanson  
 Solano County Arts Council • Mapa Solano Construction & Building Trades Council • Vallejo City Councilwoman Rocanna Vander-Aalge  
 Vallejo Mayor Bob Sampson • Toyota • Neighborhood Riding • Club Stride • Texas Jai-Also • Dos De Oros • Beer's Bridal

\*Funds are limited. We reserve the right to limit the amount of cash an individual can receive, regardless of the amount of firearms surrendered.

180 firearms:  
 66 handguns  
 111 rifles  
 3 assault  
 weapons

**SOLANO COUNTY**

## GUN BUYBACK 2018




**EXPOSITION HALL, SOLANO COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS, VALLEJO**  
**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2018 // 9 AM - 2 PM**


**Turn in guns for gift cards. No questions asked.**  
 Please transport your firearms unloaded and in the trunk of your vehicle  
**Up to \$100** in gift cards for each rifle and shotgun  
**Up to \$200** in gift cards for each handgun and assault weapon, as classified by the State of CA

Ammunition and other weapons, such as throwing stars, butterfly knives, switchblades, brass knuckles, will be accepted; however no gift cards will be given for these items.

This event is being presented by:




**VALLEJO POLICE**



**ROBBY POBLETE FOUNDATION**

A registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization  
Federal Tax ID: 82-0740692



**THE ERIC REYES**  
FOUNDATION

A registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization  
Federal Tax ID: 81-3558866

\*Funds are limited. We reserve the right to limit the amount of gift cards an individual can receive, regardless of the amount of firearms surrendered.

115 firearms:  
 44 long guns  
 70 handguns  
 1 assault  
 weapon



# Gun Buyback

## 2017 RICHMOND GUN BUYBACK

Turn in guns for gift cards. No questions asked.

Please ensure all firearms are unloaded and kept in the trunk of your car before coming to the gun buyback.

### Up to \$100

in Visa prepaid cards or gift cards for each rifle, shotgun and handgun

### Up to \$200

in Visa prepaid cards or gift cards for each assault weapon, as classified in the State of CA

\* Funds are limited. We reserve the right to limit the amount of cash an individual can receive, regardless of the amount of firearms surrendered.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2017  
10 AM - 2 PM

450 CIVIC CENTER PLAZA  
RICHMOND, CA

This event is being presented by:



Robby Poblete Foundation  
robbypobletefoundation.org



48 firearms:  
14 rifles  
6 shotguns  
15 semi-auto  
pistols  
13 revolvers

## 2018 RICHMOND GUN BUYBACK

TURN IN GUNS FOR GIFT CARDS  
NO QUESTIONS ASKED

### UP TO \$100

in gift cards for each rifle, shotgun and handgun

### UP TO \$200

in Visa prepaid cards or gift cards for each assault weapon,  
as classified in the State of CA

\* Funds are limited. We reserve the right to limit the amount of cash an individual can receive, regardless of the amount of firearms surrendered.

\* PLEASE TRANSPORT YOUR FIREARMS UNLOADED AND IN THE TRUNK OF YOUR VEHICLE.

SATURDAY  
AUGUST 18, 2018  
10 AM - 2 PM

450 CIVIC CENTER PLAZA  
RICHMOND, CA

This event is being presented by:



Robby Poblete Foundation  
robbypobletefoundation.org



51 firearms:  
13 shotguns  
7 pistols  
8 assault  
weapons  
10 rifles  
13 revolvers



# Gun Buyback



Robby Poblete Foundation



187 firearms

**FUTURE SUCCESSORS & AMERICORPS VISTA  
PRESENT**

*5th Annual Gun Buyback*



**Date:** August 4, 2018  
**Time:** 9am - 11am  
**Location:** Antioch Baptist Church  
 1454 Florence Street Augusta, GA 30901



Proudly sponsored by  
the Robby  
Poblete Foundation

**Turn in your useless UNLOADED firearms  
in an empty shoebox  
\$50 giftcard for every firearm turned in  
No questions asked**

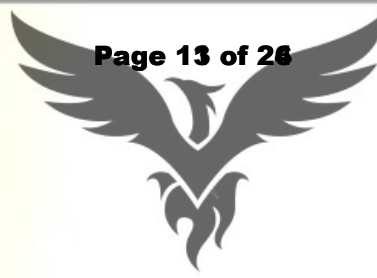



<https://futuresuccessors.org/>



# Solano County Gun Buyback





Robby Poblete Foundation

- *Transforming unwanted firearms into instruments of hope and opportunity*
- 



# Process



Robby Poblete Foundation



- Founded: February 2017      - Planning meeting: April 27      - Call for Entry: June      - Gun Buyback, August 26, 2017



- Gun materials: October 1      Artist pick-up: January 2018      Art of Peace unveiling: May 11, 2018



# Art of Peace Commissioned Art



Robby's Arc, John Ton



Blue Heron, Joel Stockdill



Simorgh, Keyvan Shovir



# Art of Peace Commissioned Art



Boarapillar, Karen Lewis

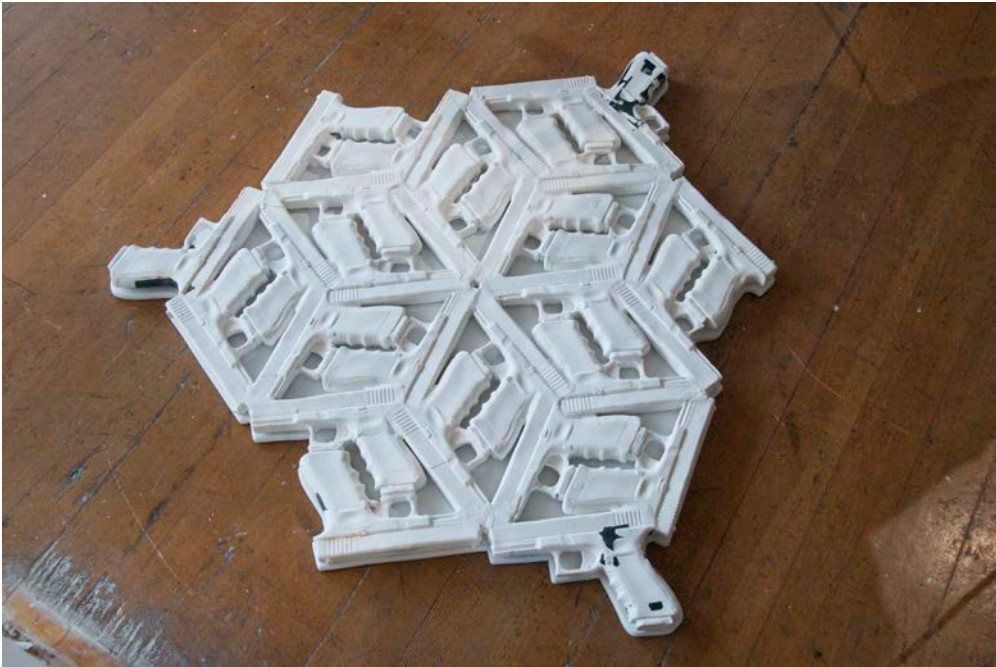


Home, Sweet Home, Tsungwei Moo

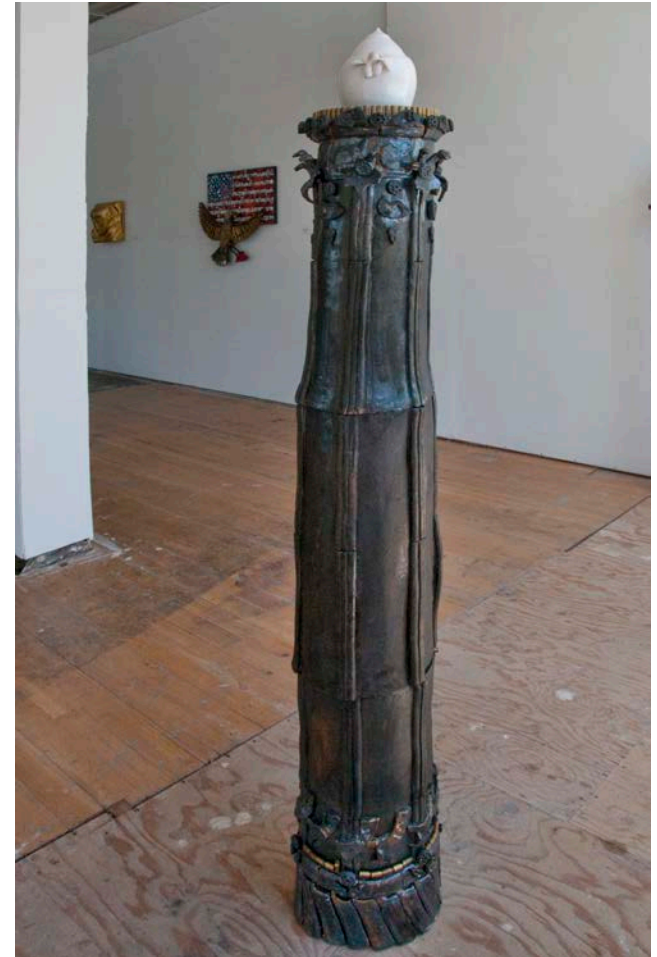




# Art of Peace Commissioned Art



Floor Mandala, Matthew Mosher



Memorial Pillar, Kaytea Petro



# Art of Peace Commissioned Art



Wave of Violence, Jean Cherie



# Art of Peace: Scale

---

## Bay Area (Secured):

- ✓ Vallejo
- ✓ Alameda County (Oakland)
- ✓ Richmond (Contra Costa County)
- ✓ San Francisco

## Requests from:

- Los Angeles
- Atlanta, Augusta, Georgia



# Art of Peace: Alameda



# Media Coverage

**PstPrint - Up to 60% off - Quality Printing For 25 Years**  
 Get Consistent Quality Every Time. Official Site. Regular 60% Sales. [pstprint.com/Discounts](http://pstprint.com/Discounts)

STYLE

## How a mother turned the death of her son to an art-filled mission of peace

[Carolyne Zinko](#) | May 10, 2018 | Updated: May 10, 2018 8:32 p.m.



1 of 2  
 Pati Navalta holds a piece of art created by her son Robby when he was 12, at her home in Fairfield. To turn her anguish of losing her 23-year-old son Robby Poblete to gun violence, she created the Robby ...  
 Photo: Michael Macor / The Chronicle

[f](#) [t](#) [e](#) [p](#) [d](#)

**PstPrint - Up to 60% off - Quality Printing For 25 Years**  
 PstPrint  
 Get Consistent Quality Every Time. Official Site. Regular 60% Sales.

[WEBSITE](#) | [DIRECTIONS](#)

**Most Popular**

- Black firefighter on inspection duty in Oakland hills gets videotaped, reported to police**
- Poop, Needles, Rats. Homeless camp pushes SF neighborhood to the edge**
- Wildfire forces thousands to evacuate in Lake County**
- Silicon Valley bus drivers sleep in parking lots. They may have to make way for development**

# San Francisco Chronicle

**TRENDING:** Red Hen vs. Sarah Sanders | #PermitPatty | Pride parades | Jimmy Fallon & Trump | BET Awards | NASCAR trickery

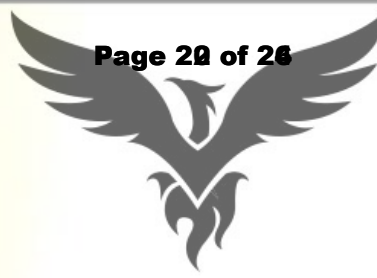
**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA'S LARGEST HUNTING & FISHING SUPPLY**  
**GUNS + FISHING & OTHER STUFF**

Dublin | 0708 Arroyo Plaza Rd. | Dublin, CA 94568 | (925) 828-4367

News > California News

## Dismantled guns, bullets secured for Bay Area 'Art of Peace'





Robby Poblete Foundation



---

Work In Progress

# Apprenticeship Bus Tour



September 29, 2017: 150 students, 5 apprenticeship centers in county



# Work In Progress



Women In Trades, Solano County, Feb. 9, 2018

Hands-On Career Fair, Solano County, April 20, 2018

Women In Trades, Contra Costa County, October 19, 2018





# Work In Progress: Scholarships



Apprenticeships and training programs

\$20,000+ in scholarships - to date

Outreach



TRADESWOMEN, INC.



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
OF SOLANO COUNTY





Robby Poblete Foundation

*For more information, please go to [robbypobletefoundation.org](http://robbypobletefoundation.org) or email [info@robbypobletefoundation.org](mailto:info@robbypobletefoundation.org)*

---

**Thank you**