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**MAYOR REDD'S "GOODS FOR GUNS" INITIATIVE SEEKS TO REDUCE THE
AMOUNT OF GUNS IN CAMDEN'S NEIGHBORHOODS**

City Collects 57 Weapons In Six Hours

CAMDEN – Continuing her effort to make Camden's streets and neighborhoods safer, Mayor Dana L. Redd today held a "Goods for Guns" initiative to help curb and reduce the amount of weapons in the City. In total, 57 guns were surrendered during the six hour initiative. Of the 57 guns, 22 were rifles and 35 were handguns. All the guns collected today will eventually be destroyed.

"The 'Goods for Guns' initiative gave Camden residents an opportunity to bring in their guns without any questions asked," Mayor Redd said. "Any amount of guns, whether it's one, ten, fifty-seven, or one-hundred that are taken off of our streets is a positive step towards securing our neighborhoods. I look forward to working with our faith-based, non-profit, government, and corporate partners to announce additional 'Goods for Guns' dates for 2012. We need to continue working together to move Camden forward."

Mayor Redd was joined by Camden County Prosecutor Warren Faulk, Camden Police Chief John S. Thomson, and Yocontalie "Connie" A. Jackson and Pastor E. M. Barron. Also joining the Mayor were various community and clergy members. Ms. Jackson, Pastor Barron and Reverend Pedro Guzman were asked by Mayor Redd to co-chair this endeavor. The co-chairs gathered clergy and non-profit organization members to meet, discuss, and plan this initiative.

The "Goods for Guns" initiative took place from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. today at five locations in Camden (St. Andrews Church located at 3050 River Rd.; Higher Ground C.O.G.I.C. located at 203 Vine Street; Antioch Baptist Church located at 7th & Ferry Ave.; Mt. Calvary Baptist Church located at 1198 Penn St.; Evangelism Today Christian Center located at 1658 Mt. Ephraim Ave.).

(more)

Individuals were able to exchange a maximum of two guns each for a \$100 gift card to Pathmark. Gift cards were not given to individuals who brought in BB guns, starter pistols, air rifles or flare guns. All guns, rifles and automatic weapons including AK-47's and other high powered weapons received the same value item of a \$100 Pathmark gift card. There was a **NO QUESTIONS ASKED** policy to anyone who surrendered a gun.

The \$100 gift cards were acquired through donations/sponsorship from the Camden County Prosecutors Office, Camden Iron and Steel, Mays Funeral Home, Duan Morris, Jackson Associates Group, Pathmark, Reliance Medical Group, Conifer LeChase, Juan Rivera CC YAP, Re/Max, and CMC Security.

Today's "Goods for Guns" initiative is one of several actions Mayor Redd has taken to enhance public safety in Camden. Due to her leadership and partnerships with the state and federal governments, Mayor Redd was able to rehire 99 police officers that were laid-off due to economic and budgetary conditions (nearly 60%); install 81 cameras and seeking to acquire an additional 40 cameras for the City's 'Eye in the Sky' program, which was stalled for nearly ten years; expand the shot spotter program; begin relighting our street light; have a mobile command unit in our neighborhood 24/7 and with another unit to be deployed early next year; and worked with the Governor to get additional police support from the New Jersey State Troopers. Mayor Redd will continue to seek solutions to protect Camden residents.

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