

RESOLUTION NO. 302

JOINING THE COUNTY'S HANDGUN BUYBACK PROGRAM WITH THE PROGRAM ESTABLISHED BY THE REV. CHARLES MULLER

Introduced: 8/11/08

By Messrs. Higgins, Domalewicz, Aylward, Beston, Bullock, Ms. Chapman, Messrs. Clay, Clenahan, Commisso, Ms. Connolly, Messrs. Cotrofeld, Dawson, Ethier, Gordon, Horstmyer, Houghtaling, Infante, Joyce, Ms. Maffia-Tobler, Messrs. Mayo, McCoy, Ms. McKnight, Messrs. Morse, Nichols, Rahm, Reilly, Scavo, Steck, Timmins, Ward and Ms. Willingham:

WHEREAS, By Resolution No. 198 for 2008, the Albany County Legislature appropriated \$10,000 in the Sheriff's Budget to provide funding for gift cards or other non-cash incentives to support a handgun buyback program to reduce gun violence in Albany County, and

WHEREAS, The resolution, enacted May 12th, designated the Albany County Sheriff and the District Attorney to establish the program, but within weeks after its enactment, the Rev. Charles Muller of the Victory Christian Church set up a gun surrender program in response to the May 29th shooting death of 10-year-old Kathina Thomas by a stray bullet near her West Hill home, and

WHEREAS, The program established by Pastor Muller accepts handguns in exchange for gift certificates of \$150 to Crossgates Mall or Colonie Center, and has resulted in the recovery of 50 weapons, and

WHEREAS, It is in the interest of Albany County residents to join with the ongoing gun surrender program operated by Pastor Muller, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Albany County Legislature authorizes the gun surrender program operated by the Rev. Charles Muller to access funding from the aforementioned appropriation on an as needed basis to support the gun buyback program, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the County Legislature is directed to forward certified copies of this resolution to the appropriate County Officials.

Adopted by unanimous vote. 8/11/08