

The Fairfax County Democratic Committee
Resolution on Semiannual Firearm and Ammunition Give-Back Days in Fairfax County

Whereas,

Adam Buchwald and Zach Hibshman, both juniors at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, created “the organization “Parents Promise To Kids” to ensure that children's voices are heard by [urging] parents to make a promise to their children that they will vote for politicians who choose [their] children's safety over guns.”

Following the recent March for Our Lives many students and parents are discussing reasonable gun violence prevention measures in their homes and neighborhoods.

One reasonable gun violence prevention measure is to responsibly dispose of unwanted firearms and ammunitions from homes and businesses to prevent them from re-entering the gun supply chain.

The Fairfax County government website and the Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD) webpage do not offer prominent links or information providing the public with procedures for responsibly disposing of firearms and ammunition.

The FCPD webpage that describes procedures for safely disposing of unwanted firearms and ammunition does not address procedures or provide dates and contact information for regular Firearm and Ammunition Give-Back Days similar to the popular semiannual Operation Medicine Cabinet Cleanout for the drop off of medications at any of the eight Fairfax County District Police Stations.

Disposal of the firearms that are turned-in to FCPD by the public may be subject to Virginia Code § 15.2-915.5. “Disposition of firearms acquired by localities” which requires that those firearms collected by localities “shall [first] be offered for sale by public auction or sealed bids to a person licensed as a dealer . . . before [being] disposed of in a manner the locality deems proper, which may include destruction of the firearm.”

Therefore, be it resolved that the Fairfax County Democratic Committee urges:

1. The Fairfax County Chairman and Supervisors to:
 - a. Direct FCPD to promote and manage semiannual Firearm and Ammunition Give-Back Days at any of the eight Fairfax County Police Stations in addition to the regular procedures described at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/servicesah/disposalunwantedfirearmsammunition; and
 - b. Direct FCPD to develop procedures for disabling the firearms collected from the public to prevent them from re-entering the supply chain through licensed dealers or other means.
 - c. Enact an ordinance to ban loaded shotguns and loaded rifles on the public roads of Fairfax County as allowed under section 15.2-915.2 of the Code of Virginia
2. Members of the Fairfax County Democratic Delegation to sponsor legislation in the House of Delegates and Senate that permits localities to dispose of firearms collected during buy-backs or give-backs through destruction of the firearms without first offering them for sale at public auction or sealed bids.