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## **Framingham Announces Gun Buy Back Initiative**

**Framingham, MA** – On December 14, 2012 the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting occurred in Newtown, Connecticut. Twenty-seven innocent victims lost their lives, including twenty children between the ages of six and seven years of age, six adult staff members and the mother of the shooter. The Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting is the deadliest mass shooting at a high school or an elementary school in the history of the United States.

In remembrance of those who have lost their lives to senseless gun violence, the Framingham Police Department is joined by the Middlesex Sheriff's Office, Mayor-Elect Yvonne Spicer and City Council-Elect Chair Dennis Giombetti in announcing that Framingham will host a Gun Buy Back Initiative on Saturday, April 28, 2018.

Unwanted and unsecured firearms in homes pose public health and safety risks to children, people with mental illness and those at risk from domestic violence. This initiative will provide residents with an opportunity to anonymously and safely dispose of their unwanted firearms and reduce the potential for an accidental discharge or wrongdoing in a home.

"The Gun Buy Back Program is an excellent idea for the City of Framingham. As gun violence is of grave concern for communities across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Framingham's commitment to safety will always be a top priority and we are doing our part in solving the problem" said Mayor-Elect Spicer.

During the 2016 Guns for Gift Cards Initiative, 174 weapons and hundreds of rounds of ammunition were safely turned into the Framingham Police Department for proper disposal.

"I am so very pleased we will be holding our second Gun Buy Back Day especially after the success of the first one. Announcing it on the anniversary of one of the most horrific incidents in our nation's history serves as a reminder that the need to make our community safer has not diminished" said City Council-Elect, Chair Dennis Giombetti.

"The Middlesex Sheriff's Office is proud to once again partner with our colleagues in Framingham," said Middlesex Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian. "This initiative – and others we have assisted with across the county – are designed to allow residents to safely and securely remove unwanted firearms from their homes. The success of last year's Buy Back – yielding 174 weapons – clearly showed this is an effort members of the Framingham community support."

Chief Kenneth Ferguson said, "We look forward to this partnership with the Sheriff, City officials, and key stakeholders. Anytime we can work collaboratively to make the community safer is a win for all."

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