

**RESOLUTION APPROVING DISPOSAL OF FIREARMS PURCHASED
PURSUANT TO THE CITY'S GUN BUYBACK PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the City of Columbus, Mississippi before 2013 had experienced an increase in the number of firearms-related crimes, including armed robberies, drive-by shootings and murders; and

WHEREAS, in increasing numbers, crimes were committed by youths or young adults; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council found and determined that a proactive approach to a reduction of gun related crimes and gun related accidents would be the reduction of guns; and

WHEREAS, in February of 2013, upon the recommendation of the Chief of Police, Selvain McQueen, the Mayor and City Council set aside \$10,000.00 to establish a gun buyback program wherein nominal sums would be offered for the voluntary sales by the public to the City of firearms and Chief McQueen told the Council that he would ensure that after completion of the purchase, that the weapons would be destroyed in accordance with law; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the purchases of the firearms was to reduce the number of firearms in Columbus and thereby advance a goal of reducing the chances that firearms might fall into the possession or control of either a criminal or be accidentally discharged within the City; and

WHEREAS, the City, under the supervision of the Police Department of the City of Columbus, purchased approximately 64 firearms for an average price of approximately \$156.25; and

WHEREAS, the consummation of the purchases satisfied the City's purposes of reducing the number of firearms within the City of Columbus and furthered its mission of providing for the health, safety and welfare of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Council, in June of 2013 approved the destruction of the weapons without any factual findings regarding the value of the firearms, spread across the minutes with the bases for such destruction or a report from the Police Department regarding the gun buyback program; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council finds and determines that the return of the weapons to the marketplace would have undermined the aforesaid purposes; and

WHEREAS, after hearing from the Police Department regarding the issues involved use of such firearms, the Mayor and Council find that sale of the used firearms, which have an unknown history of use, abuse or neglect, carried risks to prospective purchasers and could result in a liability claims being made against the City if it sold weapons containing defects, missing parts or material weaknesses or defects; and

WHEREAS, analysis, cleaning, testing, including test firing, maintenance and repair of used firearms carries risks to the employees or agents performing the analysis and requires economic costs and expenditures by the City in labor, materials and time;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL, having found and determined the above and foregoing facts and analysis were true, accurate and correct in June of 2013 and are in fact presently true, accurate and correct; hereby Order, Ratify and Affirm that:

1. Any market value of the weapons purchased pursuant to the gun buyback program would have been offset by the costs of analysis, maintenance and testing of such weapons to ensure that the weapons were safe for use or resale; and
2. The risks to City employees and the citizens of Columbus, of personal injury and property damage, as well as the financial costs associated with testing, maintenance and use of such firearms purchased pursuant to said program outweigh the market value that such firearms had; and
3. The return of the firearms into the stream of commerce would jeopardize the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Columbus;
4. Based upon the above and foregoing facts and analysis, the Council finds that the fair market value of the weapons was zero and that destruction was appropriate and is hereby ratified, confirmed and approved pursuant to Section 17-25-25 of the Mississippi Code of 1972.

Council Member Gavin moved that the above and foregoing Resolution, after having been first read aloud and considered by the Council be adopted and approved, and spread across the minutes of the Council. Council Member Box seconded the Motion to adopt the Resolution. After due consideration, the Vice Mayor, serving in the absence of the Mayor, called for a vote on the Resolution and he then recorded the votes as follows:

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Council Member Taylor	Non-voting - presiding over meeting	
Council Member Mickens	<u>X</u>	_____
Council Member Box	<u>X</u>	_____
Council Member Turner	_____	<u>X</u>
Council Member Karriem	Absent	_____
Council Member Gavin	<u>X</u>	_____

The Vice Mayor, after recording the votes announced that the Resolution received a majority of the votes of those Council Members voting and therefore declared that the above and foregoing Resolution APPROVED.

This the 20 day of May, 2014.



 Gene Taylor, Vice Mayor

Attest:



 Milton Rawle, Secretary / Treasurer