

**Guns to Gardens Louisville Safe-Disposal  
Donor Questionnaire Results  
December 2022 - November 2024**

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**Approved by Guns to Gardens Louisville  
Board of Directors  
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The author would like to express her gratitude to all Guns to Gardens Louisville members as well as to other groups and individuals for their dedication and hard work to reduce gun violence in our city. Special appreciation is due to Guns to Gardens Louisville Vice-Chairperson Eva Stimson for preserving the completed questionnaires dating from the first Safe-Disposal.

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## **Guns to Gardens Louisville Safe-Disposal**

### **Donor Questionnaire Results**

**December 2022 - November 2024**

Guns to Gardens (G2GL) Louisville is an interfaith group working to address gun violence, most notably, via safe gun-disposal events. On these occasions gun owners bring unwanted guns to designated, well-publicized sites, where qualified personnel dismantle them. Salvaged gun materials are preserved and later used to create garden tools, art and decor objects. In appreciation to donors G2GL presents them with gift cards. Each donor is offered emotional support and is asked to complete a questionnaire (Appendix 1). Results of the analysis of questionnaire responses collected across the five Louisville safe-disposal events (December 2022 through November 2024) appear in Appendix 2, Table 1, and are discussed below. Note that personal information and comments are not reported.

#### **Numbers of Guns, Questionnaires, and Safety Reasons Cited**

Eighty-eight (88) guns were provided to Guns to Gardens Louisville and forty-four (44) questionnaires were completed by donors. No respondent reported having previously disposed of a firearm. A large majority of individuals, 33 (75%), reported having turned in their weapon for safety reasons (Appendix 2, Table 1).

#### **Reasons Respondent Chose to Dispose of Firearms**

Twenty-four (24 or 55%) of all forty-four respondents indicated that they did not need the gun; 18 (41%) reported fear that the gun would be stolen; 12 (27%) were concerned about child access; 11 (25%) reported fear of the firearm; 11 indicated that they did not know how to use the gun; and 11 reported that the weapon was unsafe. Ten respondents (23%) indicated that the weapon could not be stored properly and 8 (18%) reported disposing of the gun at family request. Five individuals (5 or 11%) reported having had a bad experience with the gun, one reported fear of a shooting in the home, and one that the weapon could be used against them. Readers are reminded that each respondent chose multiple items.

#### **Source of Safe-Disposal Event Information**

Nine (9 or 20%) respondents reported learning about the event via Newspaper/TV; 8 (18%) learned via church, or pastor; another 8 via social media; an additional respondent hand-wrote 'church'; 10 (22%) checked 'Other Source' (one respondent hand-wrote 'synod' in this category); 6 (14%) respondents indicated via 'Friends', 5 (11%) via newsletter or website, and one via community group. Readers are again reminded that each respondent chose multiple items.

# Appendix 1

## Confidential Survey

This survey is completely anonymous and will help us with future gun safe-surrender events. Thank you for your participation and honest feedback.

**Have you ever turned in a firearm(s) before?** \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

**Are you turning in firearm(s) for safety reasons?** \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

**Please select the reason(s) for turning in firearm(s) today:**

- You were afraid of the firearm.
- You or someone else you know personally had a bad experience with a firearm.
- You were concerned that children would get and use the firearm.
- You believed there would be a shooting in your home.
- You were concerned that the firearm would be used against you.
- A family member asked you to turn it in.
- You cannot store it properly.
- You don't know how to use the firearm.
- You don't need/want the firearm in your house.
- You were afraid the firearm would be stolen or get into the wrong hands.
- Gun is unsafe / it misfires / too old.
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**How did you find out about today's safe-surrender event?** (Select all that apply.)

- Your church or pastor
- Announcement in newsletter/website (specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- Community group (specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- Friends
- Facebook/social media
- Newspaper/TV/radio (specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**Anything else you want to tell us?** (Use back of form if needed.)

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**Optional:** Would you like to share your story about why you are turning in a firearm today? If so, please give us your name and contact information:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone and/or email \_\_\_\_\_

I am willing to share my story with (check all that apply): planning team for this event \_\_\_\_  
supporting churches/community groups \_\_\_\_ news media \_\_\_\_

## Appendix 2, Table 1

### Guns to Gardens Louisville Safe-Disposal Event

Number of Guns, Questionnaires, Safety Reasons		Nov 2024	June 2024	Nov 2023	June 2023	Dec 2022		Total
Number guns collected		14	21	5	20	28		88
Number questionnaires		10	12	4	13	5		44
Number citing safety reasons		7	10	3	9	4		33
<b>Reasons for Disposing of Arms</b>								
Don't need		8	6	1	7	2		24
Fear of stealing		4	7	1	5	1		18
Concern child access		4	4	1	3	0		12
Fear of firearms		3	3	0	3	2		11
Don't know how to use		2	3	0	5	1		11
Unsafe/misfires/old		1	6	0	3	1		11
Lack of proper storage		3	4	0	2	1		10
Family request		2	1	2	1	2		8
Bad experience		2	1	0	2	0		5
Fear shooting in home		0	1	0	0	0		1
Concern possible use against me		0	0	0	1	0		1
<b>*Note: Respondents chose multiple reasons. Totals do not add to number of respondents.</b>								

**Source of G2GL Safe-Disposal Information**

<b>Source of Information</b>	<b>Nov 2024</b>	<b>June 2024</b>	<b>Nov 2023</b>	<b>June 2023</b>	<b>Dec 2022</b>	<b>Total</b>
Newspaper/TV	1	0	0	8	0	9
Church or pastor	3	3	0	1	1	8
Social media	2	2	1	2	1	8
Friends	3	0	1	1	1	6
Newsletter/website	2	1	0	1	1	5
Specify source	0	1	0	0	0	2
Community group	0	1	0	1	1	3

**\*Note: Respondents chose multiple reasons. Totals do not add to number of respondents.**

**Appendix 2, Table 2**  
**Dates and Locations of Louisville Safe-Disposal Events and**  
**Number of Guns Collected**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>Number of Guns Collected</b>
<b>November 2024</b>	Grace Hope Presbyterian	14
<b>June 2024</b>	Church of the Promise	21
<b>November 2023</b>	Westwood Presbyterian	5
<b>June 2023</b>	Douglass Blvd. Christian	20
<b>December 2022</b>	Douglass Blvd Christian	28