

Unwanted Firearms Disposal event in Toledo, Ohio

Purpose of event--To offer an "Unwanted Firearms Disposal" service for the community; could be more than one event, but we're just trying to plan the first one right now. We would like to work with a coalition of partners to present this as a community event that would highlight safe gun storage (see possible list of community partners below).

Why is this needed--people don't know where to take guns they don't want; some people aren't comfortable taking unwanted guns to the police because there is no guarantee they won't be sold

What--people drive through a prescribed process; they must stay on the property with the gun as it makes its way through the process, so they retain possession of it; guns are checked by trained firearm safety team members to make sure they aren't loaded, then they are sawed into parts and some of those parts are repurposed into artwork; some events have a mobile forge present to make gun parts into garden tools (thus the name "Guns to Gardens"); some events give gift cards to those who bring guns, as incentives; in addition to these activities, community partners will be present with information tables, free gun locks and safety information, etc.

Who is involved in the planning to date--area religious leaders from several denominations (see list below); we are partnering with experienced groups which host these events, who are available to guide and assist us ([Disarmory Ministries](#) and [Guns to Gardens/RAWTools](#)); we will have many volunteers from our congregations and community partners, and we would like to involve the City's group of young leaders, to center the voices of young people

When--Saturday, June 13 11:00 am-3:00 pm; June 5-7 is Wear Orange Weekend, June is Gun Violence Awareness Month in Toledo

Where--event will be held at Monroe Street United Methodist Church, 3613 Monroe St, Toledo, OH 43606. Choice of location is important: this church has a large parking lot for people to drive through and allow for traffic to be directed; it has a way to provide a backstop for the three-sided disarming tent, so it can't be accessed--there needs to be a safe direction for guns to point as they are being checked and disarmed; we need to check on electric supply (a plus but not required); this church is in a mixed neighborhood

See questions on following page

Questions for the Toledo Police Department:

1. Permitting & Compliance

- What permits are required to host this event?
- Is a specialized permit needed for on-site firearm dismantling?

2. Police Role & Coordination

- Would the Toledo Police Department like to be involved, and if so, in what capacity?
- What information or documentation does TPD need from us to ensure confidence in the safety protocols?

3. Safety Considerations

- Are there recommended or required safety standards for participants retaining possession of firearms during the process?
- Are there liability or procedural issues we should address in our planning?

4. Concerns or Red Flags

- Do you have any questions or concerns about the event?
- Are there any red flags or issues we should address early with our partners?

Questions for the City of Toledo Legal Department

1. Legal Requirements

- Are there any legal or compliance issues specific to this type of event that we should address?

2. Insurance

- We plan to secure insurance coverage through a rider from partner organizations (Disarmory Ministries, RAWTools/Guns to Gardens). If held on City property (e.g., park or community center), would the City's existing insurance provide coverage or require additional arrangements?

3. Concerns or Red Flags

- Do you have any questions or concerns that need to be addressed as planning continues?
- Are there any legal red flags we should be aware of as we work with our partners?

We look forward to discussing this event with you.

Sincerely,

Mike Linehan, Community Mission Emphasis Team Leader at Olivet Lutheran Church in Sylvania and

Rev. Meribah Mansfield, Deacon, Trinity Episcopal Church in Toledo,

Co-founders, **Multifaith Coalition to Reduce Gun Violence**

Rev. Matt Wahlgren, Rector, St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Perrysburg

Pastor Joel Shenk, Toledo Mennonite Church

Pastor Mike Hanck, Salem Lutheran Church

Pastor Joshua Wynn, Monroe Street Methodist Church

Pastor Aaron Baughman, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Mary Krueger, Moms Demand Action and Gun Violence Survivor

Isaiah 2:4

“He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.”

Possible community partners:

Save Our Community

City of Toledo Department of Public Safety (Police)

Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement

Moms Demand Action

Sisters 4 Unity

Northwest Ohio Chapter of Parents of Murdered Children

NAMI—suicide prevention

Urban Wholistics

Multifaith Council of Northwest Ohio

12/5/25

2/5/26 updated to include date and location