



Media Alert

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SHERIFF TO DISTRIBUTE GUN LOCKS TO CHURCHES, AGENCIES

Rising number of kids caught with weapons spurs Sheriff to action.

Detroit (January 26, 2010) -- Flanked by Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano and more than a dozen religious and social agency leaders, **Sheriff Benny N. Napoleon announced he's taking a proactive approach to getting gun locks in the hands of gun owners** in the face of sky-rocketing requests for gun licenses.

"Last month, a 3 year old died after getting hold to a 9 millimeter in her grandmother's home. That tragedy should have spurred gun owners to get gun locks in droves," said Sheriff Napoleon. **"The near-weekly news reports we're seeing of children bringing guns to school is a wakeup call to secure these weapons any way we can."**

Sheriff Napoleon wants to do his part to protect children by getting gun locks into the hands of those who don't have them. While people have always been able to pick up a gun lock from the WCSO free of charge, Sheriff Napoleon is taking that one step further by **providing supplies to area churches and social agencies right in the communities where people live, work and worship.** It's a partnership Rev. Dr. Alvin Jackson of Wings of Love Missionary Baptist Church feels is the right thing to do.

"Safety is first and foremost especially in the home," said Pastor Jackson. "If we would make parents aware it is your responsibility to make sure your weapon is safe, it would offset fatalities. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

There are currently 41,687 active Concealed Pistol License (CPL) holders in Wayne County. Applications in Wayne County have skyrocketed in the last few years—**13,843 applications in 2009 compared to 9,300 in 2008.** And, for the **first three weeks of 2010, the number has topped 1,292.** The enormous spike in gun licenses means more guns within reach of innocent children. Sheriff Napoleon wants to protect as many of them as he possibly can.

"If we run out, good! We can always get a new supply of gun locks—nothing can replace your precious child," Napoleon said. Gunlocks distributed at today's conference were supplied by Project Childsafe, a nationwide firearm safety education program. The agency makes them available to law enforcement entities by using 100 percent of its Department of Justice grant funding to purchase and distribute firearm safety kits free of charge.