



# COMMISSIONERS COURT COMMUNICATION

REFERENCE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

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DATE: 05/10/2022

**SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF FIREARM DONATIONS FOR THE  
MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE FIREARM SECTION  
REFERENCE COLLECTION**

## **COMMISSIONERS COURT ACTION REQUESTED**

It is requested that the Commissioners Court accept firearm donations for the Medical Examiner's Office Firearms Section Reference collection.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office wishes to accept donations of firearms that are slated for destruction from police agencies to add to the current Firearm Section Reference collection.

Firearms that are commonly donated by police agencies were originally found or abandoned property, donated by elderly members of the community, seized property, prohibited weapons (specifically those that are short barreled or that have obliterated serial numbers) and firearms that have been set for destruction by the court or the originating agency.

Donated firearms will be maintained as part of the Firearm Reference Library. This library consists of handguns and long guns of various designs, calibers, makes and models and serves numerous purposes. Below are common examples how the collection may be used:

- The reference collection firearms are used for the purpose of training evidence personnel on how to safely handle and unload firearms.
- Reference firearms are used when comparing parts from evidence firearms that have been altered or converted from semi- to full-automatic.
- Reference firearms may be taken to court for demonstrative purposed when the attorneys feel that the jury should be educated regarding a firearm function.
- Reference firearm parts may be used when a suspect weapon is submitted in a non-working order because of broken or removed parts.
- Reference long gun stocks are used when the firearm examiner has to shoot shotguns or rifles that have been shortened to illegal and potentially dangerous sizes.
- Reference magazines may be borrowed from the reference collection for the purpose of test firing suspect firearms submitted without magazines, in particular those firearms having magazine safeties.
- Reference firearms, of similar make, may be compared to determine the location of the serial number as well as the design and spacing of the characters and numbers present when an evidence firearm has been submitted with obliterated information.

SUBMITTED BY: Administrator's Office

PREPARED BY:  
APPROVED BY:

Kelly L. Clark, Business Manager  
Tracye K. Sisco, Administrative  
Director



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The Firearm Reference Library is maintained under strict security and safety guidelines in accordance to our accrediting body, American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors-Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD-LAB).

On behalf of the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office and Forensic Crime Laboratories, the Firearms Section would like to request permission to accept annual firearm donations from police agencies to assist in building a Firearm Reference Library.

Attached is a memo for two (2) firearms donations.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.