

November 30, 2010

Commissioner Rory Reid
Board of County Commissioners
500 S. Grand Central Parkway
6th Floor
Las Vegas, Nevada 89155-1601

Dear Commissioner Reid:

In response to your letter dated October 22, 2010 regarding your request to pursue and audit of the Clark County Firearms Registration Unit I submit these answers;

1. In what fiscal year was the Firearms Registration Unit authorized and what was the appropriation at the time?
 - Prior to 1973, gun registrations were handled by the Clark County Sheriff's Department. When the LVMPD formed in 1973, this function was part of the Pawn Detail. In 2000, this function was moved to the Financial/Property Crimes Bureau. This function has never been a budget line item within Metro.
2. Has the appropriation for the management of the program changed since it was authorized?
 - The program management has increased with the population growth of Clark County. However, has not meant that it grew at the same rate.
3. Is the Firearm Registration unit a budget line item? If so, what are the budget details?
 - No.
4. What is the administrative indirect cost of the Firearms Registration Program?
 - This is not a figure that the LVMPD tracks.
5. What is the annual data processing-related cost of the Program?
 - This number is not segregated in the budget.
6. If the Firearm Registration Program is not a budgeted line-item, from what departmental program have the resources been directed?
 - Firearms Registration is a section within the Financial Property Crimes Bureau.
7. Are all of the registrations online?
 - The records are not available to the general public through the internet. The information is contained within LVMPD databases.
8. If not, how are those records accessed and by whom can they be made accessible?
 - The records are accessed by personnel assigned to the firearms detail upon request made by officers or by LVMPD personnel with access to the LVMPD records systems.
9. Is there a purge criteria for the firearms registered?

➤ Yes.

10. If a firearm is registered to an individual and that gun owner moves out of Clark County, is that firearm still listed in the database as registered to that individual and address?

➤ If the individual does not notify LVMPD that he/she moved the entry remains as the person registered.

11. Do you know how many firearm registrations are current?

➤ Approximately 1,113,512. This information is from 1974 to current.

12. How many times is the handgun registration database accessed each day?

➤ This is not tracked.

13. How many arrests, citations and convictions result from handgun registration database each year?

➤ This is not tracked.

14. How many "investigative leads" does the registration program produce each year?

➤ This is not tracked.

15. How many handguns are seized each year as a result of failures to register?

➤ We do not track firearm impounds by violation.

16. How many disciplinary actions are taken against county peace officers for violating the registration code?

➤ This is not tracked.

17. The registration program has been in operation for 62 years – Metro has mounted a spirited defense of the program by offering strongly held opinions and anecdotes. What objective data can you provide that supports your conclusion that would lead a reasonable person to conclude that there is a real law enforcement benefit to Clark County?

➤ Officers benefit from the use of the database every day. If it did not provide valuable investigative leads it would not be accessed by officers.

18. Assuming that the registration program is the equivalent of 3 officers (from previous information that there are three civilian personnel assigned to the program) is the cost of this program worth the trade-off if those funds can be utilized elsewhere?

➤ The LVMPD has invested in training these employees for this job skill. Were we to eliminate this program, these employees and associated costs would still be contained within the Metro budget. There would be additional costs to the agency in re-training the employees and relocating their equipment to other areas. Therefore the benefit to the program far outweighs the cost of eliminating it.

Sincerely,

Douglas C. Gillespie, Sheriff