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**Backup Information
Agenda Item – January 8, 2013**

TO: Commissioners Court

DATE: January 3, 2013

SUBJECT: Gun Shows at Exposition Center

On December 21, 2012, Mr. Ed Scruggs gave comments during the Commissioners Court Citizens Communications about Travis County leasing of the Exposition Center for gun shows. The questions and answers that follow regarding gun shows that have either been held and are scheduled to be held in the future at the Exposition Center are intended to provide background information for the Court's consideration.

**How many guns shows do we currently have under contract at the Exposition Center?
When are they scheduled?**

Response: Since November 2010, there have been a total of 17 Saxet Gun Show Events at the Travis County Luedecke Arena with the last one occurring during the weekend of December 15-16, 2012. The promoter has paid a deposit for a total of 9 additional gun shows, which are scheduled over the next 12 months as follows:

- January 26-27, 2013
- February 16-17, 2013
- April 27-28, 2013
- August 17-18, 2013
- September 21-22, 2013
- October 19-20, 2013
- November 16-17, 2013
- December 21-22, 2013
- January 25-26, 2014

What happens at the shows? Are guns sold there or simply exhibited? What kinds of guns are exhibited or sold?

Response: The gun shows are held at the Luedecke Arena over two days during a weekend. The promoter arranges for three Austin Police Offices to be on site during the events. Two officers staff the main entrance of the arena and the third officer monitors the parking lots of the Luedecke Arena. As attendees enter the arena, they are charged a fee of \$5.00 and if carrying guns for display or trade, the Austin Police Officers verify that each gun being brought into the arena is cleared of ammunition and then disables the weapon with a zip tie to prevent the guns from being loaded and fired. The Saxet Gun Show is open from 9:00 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturdays and from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sundays. The Saxet Gun Show provides an opportunity for citizens to buy, sell or trade guns. Visitors have the opportunity to walk around and look at the displayed guns and if they choose, to purchase a gun from one of the vendors. Visitors to the gun show may also trade or sell their personal guns in the arena during the events.

The type of guns exhibited or sold could include hunting guns, shotguns, pistols, rifles, antique collectible weapons and modern weapons, including semi-automatic weapons and assault type weapons.

What public benefits result from our ceasing to lease the Exposition Center for gun shows?

Response: This appears to be a policy decision for the Commissioners Court. Some citizens would see ceasing to lease the Exposition Center for gun shows as a positive step, while other citizens would probably argue that eliminating the gun shows at the publicly owned arena is an infringement. The promoter would need to find another location for the shows if the County chooses to discontinue gun shows at the Exposition Center.

Eliminating the nine currently scheduled gun shows is estimated to result in a total loss of revenue of approximately \$128,000, including loss of rental fees (\$103,000), parking and RV rental spaces (estimated \$13,000) and loss of concession proceeds (estimated at \$12,000). The estimated numbers are based on information from gun shows over the last two years.

Additional Information

This agenda item will be posted for consideration of any legal issues in executive session at the January 8th meeting.