



MARQUEL'S PLEDGE

STOP CELEBRATORY GUNFIRE

MARQUEL'S PLEDGE is a community campaign to reduce celebratory gunfire in DeKalb County and throughout Georgia. This initiative was conceived following the death of Marquel Peters on New Year's Day 2010. As he sat next to his mother, 4-year-old Marquel Peters was struck and killed in church by a bullet believed to have been fired by a New Year's Eve reveler. The stray bullet came through the roof of the sanctuary of the Church of God of Prophecy and struck Marquel in the top of his head.

MARQUEL'S PLEDGE is two-pronged. First, in an effort to prevent additional tragedies from occurring due to this dangerous and reckless behavior, the county is encouraging ammunition dealers to refrain from selling bullets on the days leading up to the 4th of July, New Year's Eve, and other holidays. Secondly, the county is working with citizens, neighborhood groups, community organizations, churches, and businesses, to educate their neighbors, community and patrons about the dangers of celebratory gunfire and to encourage citizens to refrain from this dangerous practice, which we now know could lead to serious injuries and fatalities.

Overview

- On holidays, especially the 4th of July and New Year's Eve, the police department experiences enormous call volumes in regard to celebratory gunfire.
- Celebratory gunfire is a dangerous practice and often leads to serious injuries and fatalities.
- Offenders are difficult to apprehend and prosecute, especially in cases where an individual has been injured or killed as a result.
- Our long-term goals for **MARQUEL'S PLEDGE** are to encourage more ammunition dealers to limit or refrain from selling bullets on the days leading up to the 4th of July, New Year's Eve, and other holidays; to encourage concerned citizens to educate their neighbors and their community about the dangers of celebratory gunfire; to influence legislators to enact stiffer penalties for those who fire weapons to celebrate; and to educate the community throughout the year so that we can change this behavior.
- On New Year's Day 2010, 4-year-old Marquel Peters was struck and killed in church by a bullet believed to have been fired by a New Year's Eve reveler.
- **MARQUEL'S PLEDGE** can be taken online at www.dekalbcountyga.gov.

SEVERAL BUSINESSES HAVE TAKEN MARQUEL'S PLEDGE.
THEY HAVE AGREED TO LIMIT OR NOT SELL AMMUNITION JULY 1 - 4, 2010

- Moreland Pawn Shop, 1250 Custer Avenue Atlanta, GA 30316
 - Committed to not selling ammunition between July 1 and July 4.
- LG Guns, 3514 Chamblee Tucker Road, Chamblee, GA 30341
 - Committed to not selling ammunition between July 1 and July 4.
- Candler Road Pawn Shop, 1890 Candler Road Decatur, GA 30032
 - Committed to selective ammunition sales.
- The Gun Store, 5093 Buford Hwy. Doraville, GA 30340
 - Committed to selective ammunition sales.
- Palmer Tactical, 2200 Northlake Parkway, Suite 140, Tucker, GA 30084
 - Committed to selective ammunition sales.
- Tucker Gun, 3996 Lawrenceville Hwy. Tucker, GA 30084
 - Committed to selective ammunition sales.
- Lithonia Pawn, 2574 Old Covington Hwy. Conyers, GA 30012
 - Committed to selective ammunition sales.