



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA**
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JAMES T. BEALL, JR.
CHAIRPERSON
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Press Advisory

**Leaders Move to Address Public Health
Threat From Firearm Violence**

FACT:

*76% of killings of children and young adults under 21 in Santa Clara County involve firearms**

FACT:

There are more places in Santa Clara County to buy a Mac-10 semi-automatic gun than a Big Mac: 323 licensed firearms dealers in the county, 53 high schools, 29 libraries, and 55 McDonalds.

FACT:

Guns kill more women aged 15-44 in the county than any other cause except breast and ovarian cancer.

FACT:

*58% of all homicides in Santa Clara County involve firearms**

February 19, 1997

Info: Rachel Richman, Chief of Staff, Supervisor Jim Beall, 299-3924

Kevin Purselglove, Public Information Officer, Mayor Susan Hammer, 277-5800

WHAT: In response to the rising rate of firearm violence, the Santa Clara County Public Health Department will host the county's first 'Firearm Violence Prevention Symposium' to address the public health threat from guns-related violence. The educational symposium is designed for local and county policymakers and is open to the public. Participating will be Mayors, City Council Members, City Managers and Police Chiefs from nearly every city in the county.

WHEN: Tuesday, February 20, 1997
6:30pm

WHERE: Santa Clara County Social Services Auditorium
1725 Technology Drive
San Jose

HOSTED BY: Hon. James T. Beall, Jr., Chairman, Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors and Hon. Susan Hammer, Mayor of San Jose

BACKGROUND: The symposium will explore a wide range of options open to communities to address this public health problem. Presenters include:

- **Dena Dickinson, Deputy Director of Public Health with Santa Clara Valley Health & Hospital Systems** "Public Health Approach to Firearm Violence Prevention"
- **Chief Larry Todd, Police Chief, Los Gatos/Monte Sereno Police Department** "Law Enforcement Perspective as it Relates to Handgun Options Supported by Police Chiefs".
- **Tony Hernandez, San Jose resident will talk about his son's death by a handgun in downtown San Jose, and**
- **Andres Soto, Policy Director with the Pacific Center for Violence Prevention in San Francisco** will discuss coordinated efforts in the East Bay to stem gun violence.
- **Dr. Luther Cobb, Chief of Trauma, with Santa Clara Valley Health & Hospital Systems in San Jose** "Medical Perspective on Gun Violence".
- **Barrie Becker, Esq. Executive Director, Legal Community Against Violence in San Francisco** will speak about the legal perspective relating to law suits.

There will be additional speakers. A public comment period will be held at the end of the presentations. Santa Clara residents can also submit their comments in writing. The symposium is open to the community, but reservations are required. Please call 885-4202.

*1993-1994 statistics, Santa Clara County Public Health Department