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ATF ANNOUNCES CONTACT NUMBER TO FILE CLAIM FOR FIREARMS SEIZED AT COMPTON, OAK VIEW GUN DEALERS

LOS ANGELES – Special Agent in Charge John A. Torres of the Los Angeles Field Division, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), announced today the establishment of a contact number for citizens who had firearms at the gun dealers Boulevard Sales & Service in Compton and American Hay and& Mercantile in Oak View, Calif.

Subsequent to a federal court seizure warrant, ATF took possession of all the firearms at the two gun dealerships after arresting two Southern California men who worked at Boulevard Sales & Service on charges of selling firearms and ammunition illegally.

In order to file a claim for the return of a firearm, owners should call 1-800-283-4867 and provide their name, address and telephone number. A claim form will be mailed to them from ATF Headquarters in Washington. The claim form must be returned to ATF within 35 days from the date of the mailing.

"It is our goal to return those firearms belonging to innocent owners as quickly and efficiently as possible," Torres said. "By the calling the 800 number, people will speak with someone who can provide them immediate attention 24 hours a day."

Individual's who have paid a deposit on a weapon currently subject to the 10-day waiting period need to contact the gun store directly for a refund of their deposit.

*** ATF 24 hour Hotline *** 1-800-283-4867 ***

More information on ATF and its programs is at <u>www.atf.gov</u>.

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