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To: Deanne E. Benos/OPD/EOP

cc:

Subject: RE: YCGII Cities (38) second list is the one

Date: 01/18/2000 05:50 pm (Tuesday)

From: Susan Ginsburg

To: EX.MAIL."Deanne_E._Benos@opd.eop.gov"

Subject: RE: YCGII Cities (38) second list is the one

>Here's the latest, 38 in all.

>

> YOUTH CRIME GUN INTERDICTION INITIATIVE

> PARTICIPATING CITIES

> AND

> ATF FIELD DIVISIONS

>

- > 1. Atlanta, Georgia Atlanta Field Division
- > 2. Baltimore, Maryland Baltimore Field Division
- > 3. Birmingham, Alabama Nashville Field Division
- > 4. Boston, Massachusetts Boston Field Division
- > 5. Bridgeport, Connecticut Boston Field Division
- > 6. Chicago, Illinois Chicago Field Division
- > 7. Cincinnati, Ohio Columbus Field Division
- > 8. Cleveland, Ohio Columbus Field Division
- > 9. Detroit, Michigan Detroit Field Division
- > 10. Gary, Indiana Chicago Field Division
- > 11. Houston, Texas Houston Field Division
- > 12. San Jose, California Los Angeles Field Division
- > 13. Jersey City, New Jersey New York Field Division
- > 14. Los Angeles, California Los Angeles Field Division
- > 15. Memphis, Tennessee Nashville Field Division
- > 16. Miami, Florida Miami Field Division
- > 17. Milwaukee, Wisconsin Saint Paul Field Division
- > 18. Minneapolis, Minnesota Kansas City Field Division
- > 19. New York City New York Field Division
- > 20. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Philadelphia Field

Division

- > 21. Richmond, Virginia Washington Field Division
- > 22. Salinas, California San Francisco Field Division
- > 23. Saint Louis, Missouri Kansas City Field Division
- > 24. San Antonio, Texas Houston Field Division
- > 25. Seattle, Washington Seattle Field Division
- > 26. Tucson, Arizona Phoenix Field Division
- > 27. Washington, DC Washington Field Division

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- > 1. Charlotte/Mecklenburg, North Carolina Charlotte

Field

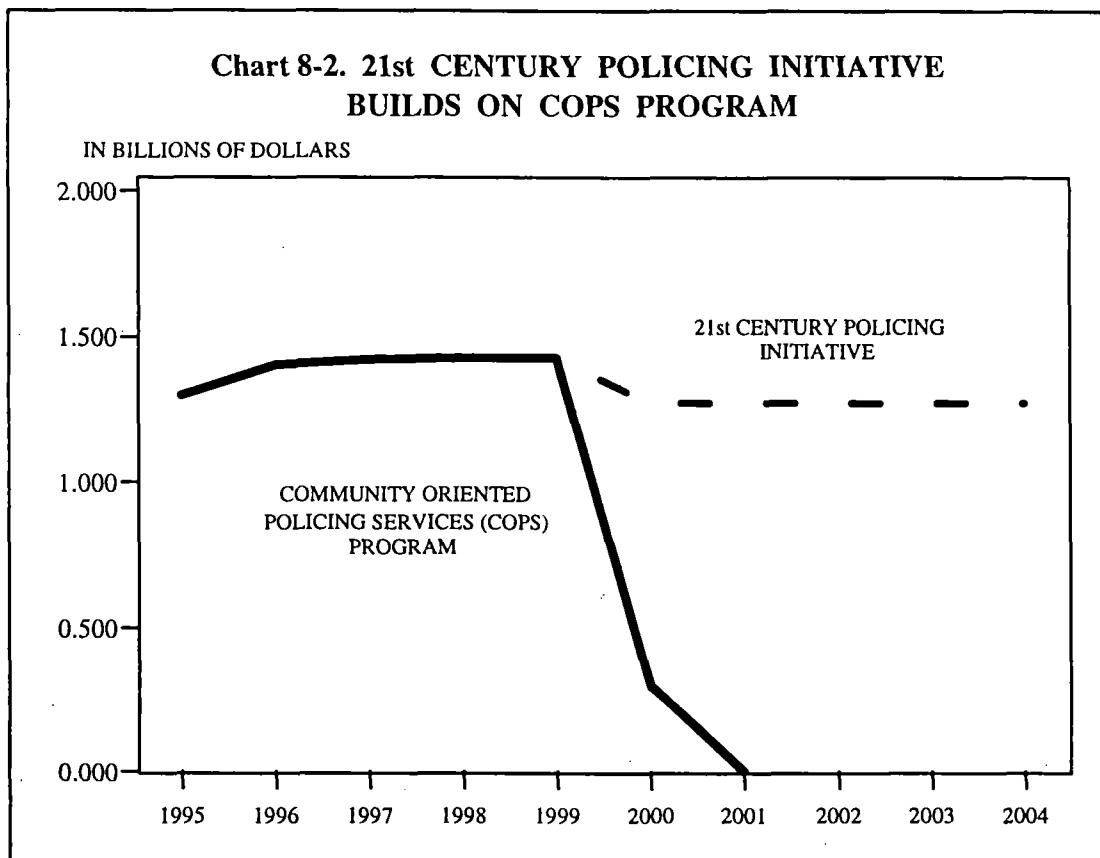
> Division

- > 2. Dallas, Texas Dallas Field Division
- > 3. Denver/Aurora, Colorado Phoenix Field Division
- > 4. Louisville, Kentucky Louisville Field Division
- > 5. New Orleans, Louisiana New Orleans Field Division
- > 6. Omaha, Nebraska Kansas City Field Division
- > 7. Oakland, California San Francisco Field Division
- > 8. Phoenix, Arizona Phoenix Field Division
- > 9. Portland, Oregon Seattle Field Division
- > 10. Tampa, Florida Tampa Field Division
- > 11. Las Vegas, NV

> Phoenix Field Division

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zations in juvenile crime prevention; and establish citizens' police academies that teach neighborhood residents problem-solving skills.

- **Narrowband Communications:** In addition, the Justice and Treasury Departments will be able to upgrade the Federal wireless communication systems' efficiency, security, and compatibility with the radio systems of State and local public safety agencies. This communications network will ensure that the Nation's public safety workers can communicate with each other securely, swiftly and effectively.

Firearms Enforcement: The Administration supports hiring more Federal prosecutors and agents for an intensified effort to keep guns out of the hands of criminals, reduce youth violence, and make America's streets safer. As part of this effort, the Justice Department, working with the States and the Treasury Department, is now conducting computerized background checks on all firearms purchases. In its first four weeks, the new Na-

tional Instant Check System has reviewed 779,170 prospective gun sales to make sure only law-abiding citizens take home new guns. Federal gun checks kept 7,900 felons, fugitives, stalkers, and other criminals from purchasing new firearms—an average of 290 illegal gun sales blocked every day.

The Administration proposes \$5 million to increase firearms prosecutions based on focused Federal-local law enforcement efforts to incarcerate and deter armed violent criminals, violent youth offenders, and illegal gun traffickers. To support these prosecutions, the Administration also proposes \$23.8 million and 160 additional Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) agents to investigate and arrest violent criminals and gun traffickers, which will extend the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative from 27 to 37 cities and support investigations of illegal activity associated with gun shows and illegal attempts to purchase firearms.

Law Enforcement on Indian Lands:

Homicide and violent crime rates on Indian lands are rising, even as crime rates in the rest of the country fall. The Administration proposes \$164 million for the second year of this joint Justice and Interior Departments initiative which provides anti-crime grants to Indian jurisdictions. The money is used to increase the number of fully trained and equipped police officers in Indian country and to improve the quality of detention facilities on Indian lands.

Violence Against Women: Violence against women is a continuing problem. Studies show that law enforcement intervention often breaks the cycle of domestic violence, preventing subsequent incidents. The budget proposes \$456 million to maintain efforts to combat gender-based crime. Funding for these programs will also enable States to further expand outreach to previously under-served rural, Indian, and other minority populations.

Juveniles: The budget proposes \$194 million for programs to fight juvenile crime and \$95 million to support more local community prevention programs such as mentoring, truancy prevention, and gang intervention. To prevent young people from becoming involved in the juvenile justice system, the budget expands programs that provide supervised afternoon and evening activities for youth. The budget provides an additional \$6 million in 2000 to the Departments of Health and Human Services and Justice to investigate and prosecute the most egregious child support violators.

Certainty of Punishment: The budget proposes \$35 million for grants to States, local governments, and Indian Tribes to develop and implement innovative punishment alternatives to incarceration and probation for young offenders. The program aims to ensure certain punishment, to strengthen accountability and responsibility, to foster reduced recidivism, and to promote assistance for victims.

Gangs: The Administration intends to crack down on violent youth gangs and to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and away from children. It has launched a tough Anti-Gang and Youth Violence Strategy to help communities hire more prosecutors and probation officers, and to keep schools open later when

youth crime rates peak. The budget provides \$13 million for gang reduction programs, including Treasury funded local gang education efforts designed to educate youth about the dangers of gang involvement.

Safe Streets Task Forces: The budget proposes \$108 million to continue the Safe Streets program, which blends the efforts of the FBI and other Federal law enforcement agencies with those of State and local police departments to investigate street crime and violence.

Crime in Public Housing: This budget proposes \$310 million to support anti-drug and anti-crime activities in public housing, including Operation Safe Home, and a new Youth Anti-Drug Diversion initiative. The Office of Public Housing and the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Inspector General jointly administer Operation Safe Home, which brings together residents, managers, and various Federal and local law enforcement agencies to rid public housing communities of crime. The Youth Anti-Drug Diversion program provides funding in support of anti-drug and anti-crime activities among youths living in public and assisted housing, including mentoring and after-school programs focused on employment training and job placement.

State Criminal Alien Assistance: The budget proposes \$500 million to reimburse State and local governments for the cost of incarcerating criminal illegal aliens.

Terrorism: Acts of domestic terrorism have resulted in deaths and injuries to American citizens, while terrorism overseas, as shown by the recent bombings in east Africa, has taken an even heavier toll. The Administration has sought more Federal resources to ensure the safety and security of the public and the Government from these violent and devastating criminal acts. The budget provides \$8.5 billion to combat terrorism, of which \$5 billion would support the Defense Department's (DOD) terrorism-related and force protection efforts. While much of the proposed funding continues, current terrorism-related programs in physical protection and law enforcement activities, the budget also provides increases in the following high-priority areas:

TREASURY



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 21, 1999

Contact: Office of Public Affairs
(202) 622-2960

TREASURY RELEASES LATEST CRIME GUN TRACES

The Treasury Department announced Sunday the latest results of President Clinton's Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative (YCGII), a program which has traced over 76,000 guns used in crime in 27 cities and has led to the investigation and arrest of hundreds of illegal firearms traffickers supplying juveniles and criminals. And President Clinton announced his intention to expand the YCGII program to ten additional cities and has included \$11.2 million to fund the expansion in the Administration's budget request.

YCGII, a collaborative program among Treasury's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), state and local law enforcement and prosecutors, was initiated by President Clinton in a July 8, 1996, directive to Secretary Robert E. Rubin and Attorney General Janet Reno to establish a program to identify and reduce the illegal supply of firearms to juveniles. YCGII was developed in response to the tripling of the juvenile firearms homicide rate from 1985-1994. While youth violence is declining nationally, it is still historically high.

"With more police on the streets and tougher gun laws on the books, crime has dropped to its lowest level in a generation," said President Clinton. "But, we must do more. Today's report shows that tracing crime guns to their source and putting gun traffickers out of business for good will make our streets even safer."

The report confirms that over 25 percent of guns recovered by law enforcement in the 27 cities are moving rapidly from retail sale to point of recovery by law enforcement. ATF investigative experience shows that such fast "time to crime" guns are likely to have been trafficked.

"The Brady Law has been successful in stopping felons from buying handguns at the point of retail purchase," said Secretary Rubin. "This program is successfully focusing attention on illegal gun markets operating through the back door."

A complementary report sent to Congress last week, "YCGII Performance Report," summarizes findings from 648 illegal firearms trafficking investigations nationwide involving juveniles and youth and nearly 27,000 firearms. ATF investigations confirm that new, used and stolen firearms are being trafficked.

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ATF investigations show that there are many illegal trafficking sources. They include straw purchasing rings, individual straw purchasers, trafficking in stolen firearms, trafficking by licensed federally licensed firearms dealers and unregulated private sellers at gun shows and elsewhere.

"Through this program, we have been able to provide law enforcement with new tools to identify, investigate and incarcerate the criminal behind the criminal -- the illegal gun trafficker," said Under Secretary for Enforcement James E. Johnson.

Other findings of the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative report and the Performance Report include:

- Among possessors of guns used in crime, over 11 percent were juveniles (ages 17 and under) and over 32 percent were between ages 18-24.
- Semiautomatic pistols clearly predominate among guns recovered in crimes in each city and constitute 52 percent of all trace requests.
- Over one third of the traffickers involved in the illegal trafficking investigations had prior felony convictions.
- In eight of the 27 cities, an average of 11.4 percent of traced handguns had obliterated serial numbers, showing awareness of ATF's firearms trafficking enforcement program.

The 27 cities included in the YCGII report are Atlanta, Baltimore, Birmingham, Boston, Bridgeport (CT), Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Detroit, Gary, Houston, Inglewood (CA), Jersey City, Los Angeles, Memphis, Miami, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, New York, Philadelphia, Richmond, Salinas (CA), San Antonio, St. Louis, Seattle, Tucson and Washington, D.C.

The new cities announced by the President are Charlotte, Dallas, Denver/Aurora, Louisville, New Orleans, Oakland, Omaha, Phoenix, Portland and Tampa. The Administration's total Fiscal Year 2000 budget request for the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative is \$45.2 million for additional ATF agents and tracing resources.

The report on the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative and accompanying Performance Report are available through Treasury's Office of Public Affairs (202) 622-2960 or via the Internet at www.atf.treas.gov after 1:30 p.m. EST Sunday, February 20.

YOUTH CRIME GUN INTERDICTION INITIATIVE

Q. What are you announcing?

A. We are announcing three things:

1. We are announcing the release of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms' (ATF) latest report on the crime guns that law enforcement officials recover in cities across the United States: *The Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative: Crime Gun Trace Analysis Reports for 27 Communities*.
2. In addition, we are making available a report provided last week to Congress, the YCGII *Performance Report*. It reports on 648 ATF illegal trafficking investigations nationwide involving juveniles and youth and nearly 27,000 firearms, and shows that trace information is being used to identify and arrest illegal gun traffickers.
3. In conjunction with the police departments in these localities, we are also announcing the expansion of the program to 10 additional cities:

Charlotte
Dallas
Denver/Aurora
Louisville
New Orleans
Oakland
Omaha
Phoenix
Portland, Oregon
Tampa

Q. Is the President planning to seek an increase in funding for YCGII in the FY 2000 budget?

A. The President's budget includes a request for \$11.2 million to expand the program to 37 cities. This would bring the total funding for YCGII to \$45.2 million.

Q. What level of funding has the Administration devoted to the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative?

A. In FY 1997, Treasury allocated about \$1.75 million. In FY 1998, Treasury allocated \$11 million in start-up funds from the Treasury Asset Forfeiture Fund, and the Congress supplied an additional \$1.25 million. These funds have been

used to support comprehensive tracing and for training. For FY 1999, the Administration requested and the Congress appropriated \$27 million. This funding covers both tracing resources and 162 additional ATF special agents.

Q. There are only approximately 1,200 ATF agents in the field. Why are there so few ATF special agents ? As compared with DEA and FBI agents? How do you expect to make a dent in the illegal gun market with so few ATF special agents?

A. In August 1997, President Clinton stated he would seek additional agents for ATF to go after illegal gun traffickers. The Administration in the FY 99 budget requested 162 additional special agents for YCGII. Congress approved that request. These agents will make a difference and we are confident this step will increase support for attacking the illegal gun market throughout the country. This is a beginning. For FY2000, we are asking Congress for over 120 additional special agent positions.

In addition, ATF trace information is leading to more enforcement activity by police departments working in joint task forces with ATF and using State firearms records and other local information. One value of the Trace Reports is the support they are giving to local law enforcement agencies that want to attack the gun problem but had very little information to go on.

Q. You have recently reported with the Justice Department on the problem of gun sales to criminals at gun shows and recommended an increased enforcement presence at gun shows. How can you attack the illegal market without more agent resources?

A. For FY2000, we are asking Congress for over 120 additional special agent positions for firearms enforcement, including to focus on illegal trafficking at gun shows and elsewhere.

Q. What is the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative?

A. The Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative is part of ATF's illegal firearms trafficking enforcement program. It is a law enforcement program aimed at reducing the illegal supply of firearms to juveniles and other persons prohibited from possessing firearms.

Q. How does YCGII work?

A. The cornerstone of the program is new information about illegal gun trafficking. Police departments in cities participating in the initiative agree to trace all the

crime guns that they recover with ATF's National Tracing Center. ATF traces the firearms and provides trace information and analysis to law enforcement officials. Trace information both supports investigations and allows city by city overviews of the crime gun problem.

Q. What resources does a city get by joining YCGII?

- A. YCGII is a collaboration between ATF, police departments, and prosecutors. Police departments that agree to trace all recovered crime guns receive *training* in crime gun tracing and trafficking investigations. ATF also assists them in instituting comprehensive crime gun tracing, with *computer hardware, software, and programming*. In addition to customized trace reports and investigative trace information, ATF provides the annual *Trace Reports* that analyze the city's trace information and place it in a national context. As of this Fiscal Year, there will be *additional special agents* dedicated to illegal trafficking investigations involving juveniles and youth in the ATF offices associated with participating cities. At the city level, there are a variety of arrangements in police departments and between police departments, ATF, and prosecutors for using trace information and focusing on the illegal gun market.

Q. How were the new cities selected?

- A. There are a number of considerations: *First*, we reviewed the juvenile and youth gun crime information from 1997 FBI Uniform Crime Report to determine the extent of the problem in various cities. *Second*, we reviewed the existing ATF infrastructure in that area to ensure an adequate level of immediate support. *Third*, we considered the level of interest expressed by the police department and others.

Q. What is the significance of the new YCGII Trace Report?

- A. The new Trace Report reflects the growing movement in law enforcement to investigate and attack the illegal gun market that supplies prohibited persons with firearms. Everyone agrees that juveniles, felons and certain others should not have access to firearms. The Brady law and criminal background checks stop criminals from buying firearms from lawful, Federally licensed gun dealers. The Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative is the first systematic, nationwide effort to examine the illegal gun market city by city and use that information-- both crime gun trace and other investigative information -- to disrupt the illegal gun supply.

Q. What is the most important finding of the new Trace Reports?

- A.** The most important overall finding is that crime guns include a substantial number of what are called fast time-to-crime guns, guns picked up within three years after sale by a Federally licensed firearms dealer. Time-to-crime is a trafficking indicator. That there are a substantial number of fast time-to-crime guns indicates that juveniles and criminals are obtaining firearms from an illegal market. Because police can trace guns with ATF and identify illegal sources, this illegal market can be attacked by law enforcement. It is possible to reduce illegal juvenile and criminal access to firearms.

Each city has a different mix of crime guns and crime gun patterns, just as they have a different mix of crimes. Each city's report needs to be looked at to see what patterns are important in that city.

Q. What are some of the key findings of the new Trace Report?

- A. City-specific findings.** For each participating city, you can find out:

- how many crime guns are being recovered, and from what age groups;
- the types, brand, and calibers of the crime guns;
- the kinds of crimes they are associated with;
- the states that are the most frequent sources for that city;
- which crime guns are moving fastest from Federally licensed dealers to the streets;
- and the number of crime guns picked up with obliterated serial numbers.

All this information gives law enforcement a picture of what is going on, and where they need to focus their attention.

General findings. Overall, the new Trace Report shows that:

- **There is trafficking in new firearms.** Newer crime guns -- guns that move from Federally licensed gun dealers to the streets in a relatively short period of time -- make up anywhere from 28 to 42 percent of all crime guns picked up. Fast time-to-crime is a trafficking indicator.
- **Both intrastate and interstate gun trafficking are important problems.**
- **Proportionately more firearms are recovered from young people ages 18-24 than from any seven year age span among juveniles (17 and under) or adults (25 and over).**

- **Most guns that police trace are handguns, particularly semiautomatic pistols. Rifles and shotguns contribute a relatively greater proportion of crime guns picked up from adults than from juveniles and youth.**
- **An average of 11 percent of crime guns picked up in eight of the cities had obliterated serial numbers.** These were nearly all handguns, disproportionately semiautomatic pistols in the relatively high-powered 9mm and .380 calibers.

Q. How is the new YCGII Report and its conclusions different from the 1997 YCGII Report?

A. The new Trace Report confirms, refines, and extends the findings in the 1997 YCGII Report. The Trace Report contains crime gun information for 10 additional cities, including Los Angeles, Miami, Philadelphia, Detroit and others. It analyzes over 76,000 crime guns, whereas the 1997 YCGII Report analyzed approximately 37,000 crime guns. It contains improvements in the statistical tables. It contains new tables on the number of crime guns recovered with obliterated serial numbers.

Q. What information does the YCGII Performance Report add?

A. The Performance Report presents information about 648 illegal trafficking investigations involving juveniles and youth. This investigative information fills in more of the picture of the illegal gun market. Trace analysis can highlight fast time-to-crime guns. The investigative information shows that in addition to trafficking in new guns, agents are confronting trafficking in used and stolen guns. It also shows that juveniles who possess firearms illegally can and do obtain them through straw purchasers who buy them at gun stores.

Q. Are there any surprises?

A. There are few surprises for law enforcement, but the Trace Reports and the Performance Report do suggest a couple of surprising departures from commonly held perceptions. In the past, there was a common perception that most guns used in crime were either stolen by individual adult and juvenile criminals for their own use, or trafficked in large volumes and primarily across state lines. The ATF reports say, *first*, that often there is a criminal behind the armed violent criminal -- the illegal gun trafficker. *Second*, ATF has learned that there are not simply two, but rather *many methods* of illegal gun trafficking -- corrupt Federally licensed gun dealers, large straw purchasing rings or individual straw purchasers, dealing in new guns, dealing in old guns that are stolen and then fenced, theft from common carriers, buying from unregulated private sellers at gun shows and then reselling on the streets, and all of these methods can be intrastate or interstate.

Q. Is the increased tracing leading to cases against illegal gun traffickers?

A. The trace information is proving very valuable. The Performance Report shows that ATF initiated 648 illegal trafficking investigations nationwide involving juveniles and youth since YCGII began. About 37 percent of these were initiated through the use of trace and multiple sales information.

ATF is rapidly making trace information more accessible. For instance, ATF is planning to provide local offices with electronic access to ATF's Project LEAD trace information system. Project LEAD aggregates and sorts trace data to produce trafficking indicators, for instance, a purchaser associated with multiple crime guns first sold by the same FFL. Increased access to Project LEAD will further facilitate the use of trace information in case development.

Q. How many traffickers have you locked up as a result of the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative?

A. Congress provided 162 additional special agent positions for ATF during the current fiscal year. This is the first earmark of special agents for this initiative. This will mean that more ATF agents be available to focus on using the comprehensive trace and other investigative information for finding traffickers to juveniles and youth. Even without additional resources, ATF has initiated about 648 investigations nationwide involving juveniles and youth since YCGII began in July 1996. In the 27 YCGII cities since 1998, ATF has initiated 392 investigations, and has referred 397 defendants for prosecution.

Q. What do the ATF Reports say about the success of the Brady law?

A. The YCGII Report does not address the effectiveness of the Brady law. Brady and other criminal records checks are used to *prevent prohibited purchasers from buying* firearms over-the-counter, from Federally licensed firearms dealers. ATF's illegal firearms trafficking enforcement program, including YCGII, picks up where Brady leaves off -- with trafficking enforcement operations which attack *illegal trafficking* in firearms - by corrupt dealers, through use of straw purchasers, or buying at gun shows and flea markets from non-licensee sellers who do not perform criminal records checks. Brady criminal records checks stop over the counter sales to criminals. Trafficking enforcement stops off-the-books and on the streets sales to juveniles and criminals.

Q. Does YCGII stop juveniles and criminals stealing guns for their own use?

A. The Performance Report shows that one way juveniles and youth obtain crime guns is from the trafficking that is taking place in stolen guns. Over a third of the investigations involved trafficking in new and used stolen firearms. (When a juvenile or criminal steals a gun, and then uses that firearm to commit a crime, no trafficking is involved. Some states have addressed the issue of unauthorized juvenile access to firearms through Child Access Prevention laws.)

Q. Aren't most firearms used in crime stolen by the criminal who uses them, and therefore a strategy against illegal gun trafficking is futile?

A. Before ATF began to look at this question systematically on a city by city basis, and publish trace analyses, it was generally assumed that most crime guns were stolen by the criminals that used them. But ATF has learned that in fact many juveniles and criminals obtain crime guns through illegal trafficking. Fast time-to-crime guns comprise at least 28 percent of the firearms analyzed in the Trace Reports; these guns are likely to have been trafficked. In addition, the ATF investigative information described in the *Performance Report* shows that many stolen guns are trafficked after being stolen.

Q. What does this program do to stop school shootings?

A. Crime gun tracing and trafficking investigations are not aimed at school shooting per se, however they can have some impact depending on the circumstances of the school shootings. Where there is violent gang activity among students, ATF can be helpful. YCGII is aimed at reducing the street supply of guns to unauthorized juveniles and youth criminals. If local gun supply reduction efforts result in fewer students carrying guns, fewer will feel the need to carry guns, and fewer will be carried into schools. Some school shootings are spree killings by children -- analogous to the Long Island Expressway shooting. Such children and their crimes cannot be dealt with primarily through a law enforcement program aimed at illegal gun trafficking to juveniles. Rather, attention has to be paid to risk assessment in schools, and to safe and secure gun storage at home, and to other types of prevention and intervention efforts.

Q. What is ATF doing to take armed violent juveniles off the streets?

A. A number of the illegal trafficking cases under ATF investigation involved armed juveniles. Of the 648 investigations included in the *Performance Report*, over 150 of them involved juvenile gun possessors. Violations committed by juveniles are referred to state court for handling, but the circumstances of their firearms acquisition are followed up by trafficking investigators.

Q. How does the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative relate to the Boston Gun Project?

A. The Boston Gun Project/Operation Ceasefire is an ongoing law enforcement effort in Boston to prevent youth homicide. Among the tools used in this collaborative effort are comprehensive crime gun tracing, trace analysis, and traditional investigative techniques to identify and prosecute specific traffickers supplying gangs and other youths with firearms.

Q. How does the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative relate to Project Exile in Richmond and Mayor Rendell's agreement with the NRA in Philadelphia to apply a similar enforcement strategy?

A. ATF's overall approach to firearms enforcement is, broadly speaking, to find the right balance in a given community between deterring and incarcerating violent criminals, and investigating and arresting illegal gun traffickers who supply juveniles and criminals. The mix of cases is determined by ATF, police, and prosecutors in each jurisdiction and it depends in part on State laws. Very often these strategies overlap, because felons can be traffickers and traffickers can be supplying felons.

Richmond is a good example of the overlap. Richmond is a YCGII city, and it has been doing comprehensive tracing of all recovered crime guns. Project Exile investigators are using trace information in making cases against felons, gang offenders and juvenile gun possessors. But their main focus has not been on a strategy aimed at reducing illegal gun *trafficking in and from* Richmond, but rather has been on a strategy of deterring local gun *carrying and use* by arresting as many illegal possessors as possible, and prosecuting them under Federal law. Of course some of the illegal possessors are traffickers or obtained the guns from traffickers.

Q. What does the new Trace Report say about interstate gun trafficking?

A. ATF found that in 21 of the 27 cities the *majority* of the traced guns were first bought from Federal firearms licensees in the State in which the city is located. For another 4 of the cities, the *biggest single source state* was the State in which the city was located, but crime guns from out of State sources, when taken together, provided the majority of crime guns. This was not true in Jersey City, nor, of course, in Washington, D.C.

Q. Does this mean you don't consider interstate gun trafficking a problem?

A. Interstate gun trafficking is an important law enforcement problem. While crime guns in most of the YCGII cities are primarily first sold in the State, there are some States that show up as crime gun source states for many states. The point the *Trace Report* emphasizes is that Federal, State, and local law enforcement need to work together to trace guns, get a clear picture of the flows, and go after traffickers, whether from out-of-state or in-state.

Q. If most gun trafficking may not be interstate, why is gun trafficking a Federal law enforcement issue?

A. Even in locations where the majority of traced crime guns are from in-State sources, many guns are trafficked interstate. Also, even when illegal gun trafficking does not cross State lines, is a Federal issue because ATF regulates the commerce in firearms. Trace information is accessed and maintained by ATF. Through comprehensive tracing, Project LEAD, and the YCGII Reports, ATF is increasing its collaboration with local police departments to develop the best enforcement strategies and properly direct cases to State and Federal court.

Q. What are the next steps for this program?

A. *First*, ATF plans to deploy the special agents funded by Congress and continue to make cases against illegal traffickers. *Second*, ATF is seeking to increase access to its firearms trafficking information system, Project LEAD, by sending it electronically to ATF field offices. This will facilitate investigations of illegal trafficking. *Third*, ATF plans to continue to expand comprehensive tracing and collaborative enforcement efforts to 10 more cities.

Q. Several Mayors think that the problem of illegal gun trafficking won't be solved without Federal one gun a month legislation. Do you agree?

A. One of the reasons for establishing a comprehensive tracing system nationwide -- and we are only at 27 cities right now -- is to find out exactly what is happening in the illegal gun market. One question we have not yet been able to answer is, how many crime guns are part of multiple purchases by traffickers or straw purchasers for traffickers? We are trying to answer questions like this, so that ATF can target its enforcement resources to arrest those illegal suppliers and decide on the best enforcement strategy.

- Q. A number of cities are suing gun manufacturers claiming that they are deliberately flooding the market with guns that they know will be bought by criminals or illegal possessors in places with strict gun laws. What do the Trace Reports say about this theory?**
- A.** The *Trace Reports* do not address this legal theory. Crime gun trace information is used by ATF to maximize investigative information about illegal gun trafficking. The *Trace Reports* do provide information about the manufacturer and caliber of crime guns that are being recovered in particular cities. They do provide information about the States where the recovered guns were first sold. The *Performance Report* supplements this information with an overview of illegal trafficking methods that ATF special agents are confronting. ATF is using all this information to target investigative resources and to better identify, investigate, and arrest illegal gun traffickers and thereby reduce illegal access to firearms, especially to juveniles and criminals.
- Q. The Trace Report states that ATF was able to identify first purchasers for only 59.9 percent of crime guns where a trace was initiated, and that it did not initiate a trace in about a third of the trace requests. Is comprehensive tracing worth it when you can't trace all of the crime guns?**
- A.** Yes, this amount of trace information provides much important investigative information about traffickers. Age of the firearm being traced, and the accuracy of the dealer's records play a large role in the success of a trace. The NTC is continually trying to improve the number of traces that can be fully completed. Also, the recent Treasury-Justice Gun Show report recommended that record keeping procedures for the sale of used guns by non-licensees at gun shows, in order to facilitate crime gun tracing. When firearms that are re-sold can be traced by the NTC, considerably more investigative information will be accessible through tracing.
- Q. How many assault weapons are among the traced firearms?**
- A.** At this time the National Tracing Center cannot easily determine what firearms meet the legal definition of an assault weapon. There are two ways a firearm may meet the definition of a semiautomatic assault weapon under the Gun Control Act Sec. 921(a)(30)(B): if it is a particular, enumerated model, or, if it has two or more certain enumerated features. It is difficult for ATF to establish the number of assault weapons among traced firearms under either definition.

With respect to the enumerated models, a gun manufacturer's model designation may have remained the same even after passage of the assault weapons ban and the re-design of that model. Therefore, unless the trace request contains date of

manufacture, the NTC cannot establish if the firearm meets the legal definition of an assault weapon.

With respect to the features test, a particular rifle model can be made with or without such features, or the features could have been added after the weapon left the manufacturer. Trace requests provide information as to make, model, caliber, and serial number. This is insufficient information to determine the exact configuration of the firearm in relation to the rather complicated legal definition of an assault weapon.