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**Testimony of Michele Mount
Director of Legislative Affairs and Special Advisor to Mayor Finch
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Regarding SB 607
AN ACT CONCERNING THE IDENTIFICATION OF CERTAIN FIREARMS AND
THE CRIMINAL POSSESSION OF FIREARMS
Before the Judiciary Committee
March 17, 2008**

Good Afternoon, I am Michele Mount, Director of Legislative Affairs and Special Advisor to Mayor Finch, Testifying on behalf of Mayor Finch, for the microstamping section in Senate Bill 607. Arnold Schwarzenegger the Governator fired close to 2,347,052 bullets, or thereabout, on screen. No one can accuse Arnold of being an enemy of gun owners. On October 13, 2007, California Governor Arnold "I'll be back" Schwarzenegger made history by signing legislation that will give law enforcement officials the ultimate high tech weapon to solve gun-related crimes. Bill 607 will mirror The "Crime Gun Identification Act of 2007," in California. That act requires manufacturers to "microstamp" of all new models of semiautomatic handgun models sold in California starting in 2010.

In this era of school shootings, mall sniper attacks and other random acts of violence this matter of public safety is an issue for urban, suburban and rural communities alike. In Bridgeport we are reminded on a daily basis that we are one bullet away from another senseless death. While we employ many tools in the prevention of tragedy, this would be an invaluable aid for solving crimes and perhaps deter criminals from using guns in the first place. Many other states and the U.S.Congress, led by are showing significant interest in implementing microstamping technology.

Microstamping technology utilizes lasers to make precise, microscopic engravings on the internal mechanisms of a gun. When the gun is fired, information identifying the make, model and serial number of the gun is stamped onto the cartridge as numbers and letters. Law enforcement officials investigating homicides and other gun crimes would be able to trace firearms through bullet casings found at crime scenes. This is a critical tool that would aid investigations to identify the original purchaser of a gun.

Microstamping is a significant improvement over existing ballistic identification technology as that technology can only determine the make of gun. Because microstamping imprints the identifying characteristics of the firearm onto every cartridge ejected from the gun, investigators would not need to recover the actual crime gun itself.

The technology could also help to deter "straw purchases" of firearms through licensed dealers, a common trafficking method. Straw purchasers would be less likely to act in this capacity if they believed a gun could be successfully traced back to them after being used in a crime. This would be an invaluable tool to track lost and stolen firearms and would encourage the reporting of lost and stolen guns.

Connecticut is part of New England's pride in Yankee Ingenuity. We would join California in taking the lead in this revolutionary aid to solving gun crimes. We are stunned almost on a daily basis with details of horrendous gun crimes. It is vital we act now to protect our citizens from future gun violence. Please support bill 607.