



New England Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence

March 16, 2009

“Microstamping” is a technology that uses lasers to make microscopic engravings on the firing pin of a gun. When the gun is fired, a code with the gun’s serial number is stamped on the cartridge. This allows a cartridge case recovered at a crime scene to be connected to the make, model and serial number of the gun that fired the bullet.

As we move forward with this technology and guns are manufactured employing microstamping, this will prove to be an extremely valuable police investigation tool.

The following quick survey of news stories, from a six-week period in January and February 2009, detail shootings that occurred around Connecticut where no immediate arrests were made. If microstamping was already included in the manufacturing process the police would have most likely been able to identify the gun used in these crimes:

Bridgeport, Two shootings that may be related, one seriously wounded a 20-year-old man. (1/13/2009)

Hartford, Shots fired during a home invasion. No one was hit by gunfire. (1/13/2009)

Fair Haven, Double shooting, woman grazed by bullet, man shot in foot. (1/20/2009)

New Haven, Gun shots heard, shell casing found by side of home. (1/20/2009)

New Haven, Man in his early 20s was shot multiple times. Shooter gunned down victim from a vehicle which fled the scene. Victim died at hospital. (1/24/2009)

Fair Haven, Man shot through his front window, seriously wounded. Victim was not intended target of gunfire. There was a dispute outside his house where a man pulled out a gun and started shooting. (1/30/2009)

Hartford, Shot fired near Learning Corridor, no one was injured. (2/10/2009)

Hartford, Man shot numerous times in his leg. Injuries were not life-threatening., (2/12/2009)

Hartford, Man shot in arm and chest during holdup. He is expected to survive. (2/13/2009)

New Haven, New Haven's 4th homicide victim of year had history of gun violence, both as shooter and victim. (2/21/2009)

P.O. Box 221
318-0771

• Westbrook, Maine 04098 •

Phone: 207-

necpgv@gmail.com •

www.necpgv.org