

To All it May Concern,

I am a retired senior law enforcement executive with 30 years of experience at both the federal and local levels.

Most of those years were spent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). Nine of my ATF years as a Special Agent assigned to the New Haven Office. My final assignment before retirement was as the Special Agent in Charge of ATF's New York / New Jersey Division.

Born and raised in New Haven, CT, I also spent 6 years between the New Haven Department of Police Services and the New Haven Housing Authority Police Department.

For the past 13 years, I have served as a vice president at Forensic Technology, the developers of automated ballistics technology used in the National Integrated Ballistics Information Network (NIBIN) to help generate investigative leads to solve more gun crimes and cold cases.

Thus, a great deal of my career has been focused on firearms crime related issues.

Realizing that we can't always get the "story" from the people involved in gun related crime and violence, we should at least routinely ensure that we do all we can to get the story - that every crime gun holds.

I am writing today to raise awareness about a common sense and crime-focused initiative to help reduce gun and gang-related violence - the creation of Regional Crime Gun Processing Protocols. They are protocols aimed at extracting all of the information that every crime gun possesses (ATF crime gun trace data, NIBIN ballistics, DNA, fingerprints, etc.) and then turning it into actionable intelligence to stop armed criminals.

Regional standardized crime gun and evidence processing protocols are needed because criminals are mobile and evidence of their crimes is becomes scattered across police jurisdictions. A detective investigating a murder in New Haven is dependent upon what a police officer in East Haven, North Haven or West Haven does or does not do with the gun he or she takes into custody during a drug raid or felony car stop.

In fact, I have witnessed this phenomenon extend across state and international borders as well.

Ask any police officer in the state if they believe that the murder weapon in their case could be sitting in the evidence vault of a neighboring police department and the answer will be a resounding yes.

The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) recently adopted a resolution supporting the creation of such protocols which I have enclosed.

In addition, there is a Bill moving through the New Jersey Legislature which mandates that all agencies conducting law enforcement operations in New Jersey police conduct certain checks and processes on all recovered crime guns and related evidence. (See attachment).

Thank you for considering ways to make Connecticut our Nation safer from the criminal misuse of firearms.
Pete Gagliardi