

JANUARY 2010



House Post Audit
and Oversight
Bureau
(617) 722-2575

“Every Gun Has a Story to Tell”

Gun Trafficking and Gun Violence Prevention Advisory
to the
House Committee on Post Audit and Oversight

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James Tansey, director, HPAO Bureau

Opening lines, *The Friends of Eddie Coyle* (1971)

Jackie Brown at twenty-six, with no expression on his face, said that he could get some guns. “I can get our pieces, probably by tomorrow night. I can get you probably, six pieces. Tomorrow night. In a week or so, maybe ten days, another dozen. I got a guy coming with at least ten of them but I already talk to another guy about four of them and he’s, you know, expecting them. He’s got something to do. So, six tomorrow night. Another dozen in a week...” “You can’t trace these guns,” Jackie Brown said. “I guarantee it.” “Tell me how come, “the stocky man said...” “I got guns to sell,” Jackie Brown said. “I done a lot of business, and I had very few complaints...”

**The Friends of Eddie Coyle
Chapter One
George V. Higgins**

Shooting at a Southeastern Massachusetts High School, (December 2009)

...the 17-year-old who was shot and wounded on the grounds of a [Southeastern Massachusetts High School] late Wednesday afternoon... During the past year, the staff at the Warren Avenue club saw less and less of (the 17-year-old), who now lives in Boston area... He dropped out of a [Southeastern Massachusetts High School] as a freshman in October 2008... One month later, he was charged with unlawful possession of a firearm, possession of a firearm with defaced serial numbers, illegal possession of ammunition and illegal possession of a large-capacity firearm... Last year, when a [Southeastern Massachusetts] police detective asked (the 17-year-old) why he had a loaded 9 mm handgun tucked in his jeans, the answer was simple... “They want my head,” (the 17-year-old) reportedly said. “Who?” the detective asked. “Just people,” (the 17-year-old) answered.

**By Maria Papadopoulos
GateHouse News Service
Posted Friday, Dec 04, 2009 @ 03:12 AM**

Findings

- Illegal firearms criminal activity is a growing problem and is viewed as coupled almost always with gang activity;
- Illegal handguns and illegal pistols are the most prevalent firearms involved in Massachusetts gun crime;
- Financial resources are essential for effective gun crime prevention, according to surveyed and interviewed police departments. Crime prevention costs money;
- The underlying theme of all responses to HPAO Bureau inquiry either by email, survey, or telephone interview is the value of police investigation, intelligence and inter-agency cooperation among law enforcement to anticipate and hinder illegal gun activity and prevent gun crime;
- Surveyed Massachusetts police departments support task force and cooperative relationships among law enforcement agencies to combat illegal firearms activity and gun crime;
- Surveyed Massachusetts police departments urge stringent penalties for illegal firearms violations;
- Interviewed Massachusetts police departments do not support gun sales restrictions to persons legally qualified to own firearms in Massachusetts. Legal gun owners are not the problem;
- Interviewed Massachusetts police departments believe that Massachusetts gun laws are among the most rigorous in the nation;
- Surveyed Massachusetts police departments support increased community education on illegal gun activity;
- The surveyed Massachusetts police departments all participate in the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives' (ATF) enforcement agency's Firearms Trace Data program. The ATF gun trace program is provided to all participating Massachusetts police departments at no charge to the participating police department.

Request

The House Post Audit and Oversight Committee requested that its Bureau inquire into Gun Trafficking and the importation of illegal guns in Massachusetts.

Methodology

The topic was presented at a workshop to “stop gun trafficking [and] save lives” at the Massachusetts State House in late November. The inquiry to the HPAO Bureau followed shortly afterwards. The Bureau was asked to inquire into the facts of the gun trafficking problem in Massachusetts. The HPAO Bureau researched available documentation and literature, contacted law enforcement, and wrote and distributed a survey research tool to Massachusetts municipal law enforcement.¹ The survey response tool was distributed to those communities identified by the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Firearms Tracing System as representing high volume gun “recovery” communities over the last three years. This survey response tool was designed to obtain local input and to obtain commentary from those communities that ATF data identified; and to afford the HPAO Bureau an understanding of the gun trafficking and illegal firearm use from the local perspective.² The HPAO Bureau then used the information in the tool responses and data and telephone and email conversations with the Boston Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) field office and selected Massachusetts police departments to write this advisory.

Gun Crimes and the source of the gun

“Every gun has a story to tell,” the special agent with the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, or ATF, told the HPAO Bureau regarding the ATF Firearms Tracing System.

At a late November meeting and presentation, interested members of the Massachusetts General Court came together for a presentation known by the distributed literature as “Traffick Jam.” The State House meeting was sponsored by Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz, was joined by her legislative colleagues including: Representative David Linsky, Representative Benjamin Swan, Senator Thomas McGee, Senator Steven A. Tolman, and Representative Elizabeth Malia. Most of the participating members have sponsored, or have signed onto, legislative petitions whose aim is to prevent the use of illegal firearms.

Included in the literature at the event were statistics from a companion campaign known as “Where did the gun come from?” The literature at the State House event noted that “thirty to forty percent of the guns used in Massachusetts crimes originated in Massachusetts.” Fact sheets were distributed to the event participants.

The HPAO Bureau spoke to the Field office of the ATF after reviewing the documentation available on the ATF website. It is indeed true, the ATF confirmed, that the guns that are traced following crimes in Massachusetts are predominantly local.

In a one year calendar period in 2008, the time period of the most recent available data, of the one thousand, five hundred and thirty four (1534) firearms recovered and traced in Massachusetts, **two hundred and ninety (290) firearms were from Massachusetts sources;** that is just under 20 percent of guns recovered from crime scenes, according to the ATF’s Office of Strategic Intelligence and Information. Another 18 percent of the guns with a “Massachusetts recovery” for a total of 258 can be traced to the five other New England states.

New England sources for Massachusetts crime scene firearms in 2008 were:

97 guns originating in Maine
91 guns originating in New Hampshire
28 guns originating in Vermont
24 guns originating in Rhode Island
18 guns originating in Connecticut

258 total guns traced back to New England states which had a “Massachusetts recovery.”

The other prominent origins of guns “recovered” in Massachusetts and traced in 2008 are:

- 58 guns traced to Georgia
- 41 guns traced to Florida
- 31 guns traced to Virginia
- 23 guns traced to Pennsylvania
- 19 guns traced to North Carolina
- 18 guns traced to South Carolina
- 14 guns traced to Ohio
- 14 guns traced to California

218 total guns which had a “Massachusetts recovery” were traced to the states in this aggregated sum. The ATF noted that “an additional 25 states accounted for 109 other traces.”³

Copies of the ATF reports that contributed to these statistics are available for all states for the last three calendar years. These reports are available for all states at the ATF URL:
<http://www.atf.gov/statistics/>

The chart below demonstrates the top ten most prominent gun trace locations identified for local law enforcement by the ATF over a three year period. Massachusetts has 351 municipalities of which there are 49 cities and 302 towns.⁴

Top Recovery Cities for Firearms with a Massachusetts Recovery for calendar years 2006, 2007 and 2008*:⁵

City/Town	2006	2007	2008
Boston	554	511	492
Brockton	77	64	98
Lynn	52	46	73
Springfield	130	170	67
Worcester	46	61	54
New Bedford	68	62	52
Lawrence	57	31	44
Lowell	47	42	42
Fall River	27	44	-
Holyoke	27	33	32
Marston Mills	-	-	39
Norton	92	-	-

2006 Note- There were 123 additional municipalities that accounted for 456 other traces. The recovery city could not be determined for 11 traces.

2007 Note- There were 127 additional municipalities that accounted for 472 other traces. The recovery city could not be determined for two traces.

2008 Note- There were 139 additional municipalities that accounted for 541 other traces.⁶

Two odd data specimens

Two communities immediately stand out in the data chart above: Marston Mills, a village in the Town of Barnstable, population in the entire town is 46,184, and Norton, a semi-rural and suburban community of approximately 20,000 persons in Southeastern Massachusetts.⁷ The Marston Mills episode in 2008 was the result of a police raid. The number of firearms involved was a cache of weapons discovered in a home. The appearance of this village of the town of Barnstable is due to the large number of weapons seized and subsequently traced. Similarly, the Town of Norton appearance on the ATF trace data list for 2006 involved the large amount of guns found and traced.

Education and resource allocation

The value of gun trace data is at least two fold, according to the ATF: law enforcement and municipal management are more informed as to where to concentrate enforcement and prevention resources. Similarly, the citizen is advised where the problem is concentrated and can act or offer support. The ATF and local law enforcement work together in the gun trace and any detail involved in the “source” of the trace is made available to local law enforcement.

Follow-up on the HPAO Survey of Gun Crime

The HPAO Bureau used ATF information about gun tracing to develop and conducted a survey of those municipalities that have had significant gun crime tracing activity in the last three years. The HPAO Bureau identified survey recipients based upon firearm recovery data available from the ATF. Survey responses were the basis for follow-up telephone interviews with participating police departments. The findings of the survey and police department discussions are summarized as follows:

Illegal gun activity

Responses to the HPAO gun tracing and trafficking survey all indicated that guns recovered from a crime were sent to the ATF for tracing (an exception were legal guns confiscated in the enforcement of a Chapter 209A restraining order, several police department told the HPAO Bureau. These guns are determined at their seizure to be legally possessed, local law enforcement officials said.).⁸

As the HPAO Bureau is preparing this advisory a shooting of a 17 year old in Southeastern Massachusetts High School stunned the community. The investigation into that brazen shooting continues but the young man who was shot has a record of himself being found with an illegal

gun. This young man was discovered with an illegal firearm about a year ago; and the gun he was in possession of was found “with defaced serial numbers” when confiscated from him by the Southeastern Massachusetts city police department.

In responding to the HPAO Bureau survey this Southeastern Massachusetts city police department indicated that “all” firearms that are involved in crimes and which are recovered are sent for origin tracing. This Police Department also affirmed that recovered guns are generally stolen, are handguns, originate from both a Massachusetts and out of state source, were loaded at their recovery, and are often missing the manufacturer serial numbers.

Gun Trafficking and Gun Laws

A report issued last year by the Mayors Against Illegal Guns organization stated that “lax illegal gun laws are associated with high crime gun export rates...” Referencing a chart embedded in the report entitled “the Movement of Illegal Guns in America”, the mayor’s organization opposing illegal guns argues that “states that have strong illegal gun regulations have significantly lower crime gun export rates on a per capital basis, than states with comparatively weak illegal gun regulations. Massachusetts does not have lax gun laws. In fact, the Mayors Against Illegal Guns organization specifically notes that Massachusetts is among the most progressive of states in gun sales oversight.”⁹

All Massachusetts police departments who either responded to the survey and/or who participated in the follow up telephone interviews believed that Massachusetts has appropriate gun laws. Some disagreement regarding interpretation of those laws, particularly by the judicial branch, was voiced to the HPAO Bureau, but the laws themselves were not viewed as either inadequate or weak. Strict enforcement of the law was a repeated goal that was expressed to the HPAO Bureau – at times with exasperation for what some police departments consider to be lax enforcement of existing laws.

Gun Trace Data

Using the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives’ (ATF) trace data for the years 2006-2008, HPAO Bureau surveyed those Massachusetts municipal police departments with the highest annual concentrations of firearms recoveries which are traced by the ATF. These ATF “traces” establish the origin of the firearm. The traces assist the police department with its crime investigation, and also serve as an indicator of where law enforcement should concentrate its resources to prevent gun crime. The traces are requested by the police departments and the ATF provides the service without charge to the local law enforcement, the HPAO Bureau was told by the ATF. The ATF notes that firearms traces are not necessarily for guns used in crimes, although the police departments that the Bureau spoke to only request traces for guns used in crimes.

One Southeastern Massachusetts police department told the HPAO Bureau that legally owned guns confiscated by police due to a Chapter 209A order (a domestic abuse protective order), are not typically subject to a trace. Similarly, a Western Massachusetts municipality that the Bureau spoke to stated that only guns that are known or suspected as involved in criminal activity are traced, not every gun recovered by the police. An example given by the Western Massachusetts police department was a gun which legally belonged to a local resident and is either turned in by that resident, or by the family of the resident.

All of the Massachusetts Police Departments who responded to the survey indicated that they participate in the ATF gun trace program. There is no charge for the participation.

Illegal Firearms

Illegal handguns are a serious problem for an urban mid-sized, city in Western Massachusetts, according to the city police chief. The police chief of the once prominent manufacturing city located in Hampden County told the HPAO Bureau that the top three illegal firearms issues in the survey for his community were: handguns in general, stolen firearms, and firearms that are loaded upon recovery. Repeat offenders constitute significant contributors to the problem, the police chief said, indicating his unhappiness with what he termed a too lenient posture by the judiciary.

In a telephone interview, the police chief told the HPAO Bureau that an individual was arrested just the previous evening near mid-night in a “domestic dispute” adding that “we got a guy carrying a non-licensed firearm; he was carrying a fully loaded 9 millimeter semi-automatic handgun.” The police chief said that the individual arrested has been arraigned 19 times on various charges since 1994. The police arrest log listed his age as 32 years old. The log entry for the individual, posted on the police department website, offers the following information:

Date of Arrest: Tuesday, January [REDACTED], 2010

Arrestee: Male Race/Sex/Age: W/M, 32

Time of Arrest: 11:48 PM

Address: [REDACTED]

Arrest Location: [REDACTED]

Charge Ch. 265 Sect. 13A DOMESTIC ABUSE

Charge Ch. 266 Sect. 126A WANTONLY INJURING REAL OR PERSONAL PROPERTY

Charge Ch. 269 Sect. 10(N) POSSESSION OR CARRYING A LOADED FIREARM

Charge Ch. 269 Sect. 10/G FIREARM, AMMO WITHOUT FID CARD, POSSESS

Charge Ch. 269 Sect. 11C REMOVAL OF ID NUMBERS OF FIREARMS

Charge Ch. 269 Sect. 10-A CARRYING/POSSESSION OF FIREARM W/O LICENSE - CARRY

The police chief stated that he believed that more harsh penalties by the judiciary were necessary for law enforcement to effectively do their job. The police chief was a self-described critic of what he termed exceedingly lenient, or nearly non-existent, judicial penalties. He identified these as low monetary amounts for bail, or release upon personal recognizance. He was not aware of the disposition of the arrest he discussed with the HPAO Bureau. The Western Mass. police chief said that these repeat offenders made progress against crime and specifically illegal handgun crime, very difficult to curtail.

Legal firearms, he told the HPAO Bureau, are not the problem, noting that Massachusetts has some of the most restrictive firearms laws in the nation. “(Legal) gun sales not the problem, permitting not the problem, not enforcing the gun laws is the problem,” the chief adamantly stated.

The Western Massachusetts police chief equated gang activity and illegal gun possession and use as hand in hand problems.

That gang/gun connection was echoed by a Southeastern Massachusetts city police lieutenant who responded to the survey. Illegal guns in his community are most often found in gang related criminal activity, either local gangs, or local gangs with affiliations to larger regional or national gangs. The lieutenant said that illegal guns were a high level of concern in his community.

Similar to the chief of police in Western Massachusetts, the Southeastern Massachusetts lieutenant thought that stiff penalties for gun crimes, a refusal to plea bargain on gun crimes, enforced jail sentences, a refusal to allow criminals found with illegal guns to plead to lesser crimes, and an increase in minimum/ mandatory sentences for illegal gun crimes were all methods that would help reduce the illegal firearm problem.

Another, smaller Western Massachusetts city, told the HPAO Bureau that the gang activity in that community was a slowly increasing issue. The chief in that community said that their experience definitely equated illegal gun crime with the gang problem. Noting that his community has only recently begun participating in the ATF firearms tracing program, the police chief said that they “want to stay ahead of this crime trend.” The mid-sized Berkshire County community thought that partnering with the ATF, and other law enforcement agencies was an effective way to combat illegal firearm activity. The chief would like to “see more formal task force approaches to illegal gun crime.”

Gang Crime Often Equals Gun Crime

Several police departments in urban areas told the HPAO Bureau that the biggest problem regarding gun crime is the gang issue.

Gangs are the most violent organizations that municipal police have to deal with. Gangs and guns are synonymous, all interviewed police departments said. The guns are illegal and are the byproduct of: illicit drug sales, thefts of legally owned guns, or other sources of stolen guns.

Each police department contacted stressed that the gun crime problem is usually an illegal gun problem.

A large municipal police department in Western Massachusetts told the Bureau that gangs are populated by youth. Reaching the youth is an important goal of the community, but it can't be the sole responsibility of the police. That is, the HPAO Bureau was told, another illustration of cooperative arraignment with other community resources and organizations. Many of the gang membership problems have their root in family problems. "We can chase bad guys all day, and we have more than our share of bad guys," one large city police department told the HPAO Bureau, but much of the solution outside of strict law enforcement is a social problem, "a family problem. That is not (exclusively) solved with a police response."

Even city police departments in more rural settings recognize the growing gang problem and are taking anticipatory steps to recognize and enforce that kind of crime, the Bureau found.

Stolen Guns

Additional restrictions on legal gun sales were not favored by any of the police departments that the HPAO Bureau spoke to. A city police department in Hampden County told the Bureau that legal guns, other than those legal guns that are stolen, are not the issue. Illegal guns are the issue. That, the police department representative said, is why the police department stresses keeping legal guns secured when not in use. Similarly, the chief of a Berkshire county community was not in favor of any restrictions on the sale or registration of guns to persons qualified to own firearms. Yet, the Berkshire police chief acknowledged another illegal gun problem to the Bureau; persons with drug addictions, or other addictive behaviors who need cash and who obtain guns often sell those guns (generally legal guns) to support their narcotics or other addictive habits. "Those legal firearms are often used in crimes," he said. The ATF (and other law enforcement agencies) refer to these firearms which are identified in a trace as "time to crime rates for guns with a Massachusetts (or any state) recovery."

A Central Massachusetts survey recipient self-described as an urban area who responded but declined to be interviewed noted that out of state handguns was the source of most traces; this response found illegal handguns to be the most prevalent source of gun crime. The gun crime in that community was more prevalent, the Central Massachusetts survey response stated.

While illegal guns are sometimes also found to be defaced – as was the case in the high school gun confiscation noted earlier in this advisory, that is not a common pattern of a recovered gun. Also, some defaced gun serial numbers can be restored to readability in a crime lab.

Fighting Gun Crime Costs Money

Several police departments who responded to the survey noted a decrease in the prevalence of gun crime in their communities. One Hampden County municipality where gang activity is a serious problem noted that the police department data demonstrates a decrease in gun crime prevalence. He is forthright about the reason: the availability of continued and recurring grant monies to fight gang and gun violence. The larger Massachusetts city police department did not hesitate when asked for the results associated with the state Shannon and Byrne grants: “flood the street with police presence and anti-gang and anti-violence programs. Harass the gangs; curtail the activity of gangs.”

But fighting gang activity costs money and this officer is equally blunt in talking to the HPAO Bureau about the need for financial resources. The police department has no current grant funds and in lieu of that it utilizes its general revenue and overtime budget to decrease overtime activity and police presence in colder weather, and increase overtime in warmer weather. The deployment/overtime ratio is about 3 to 1 between warmer weather anti-gang and anti-gun (violence) programs and the decreased police presence during the colder weather. There are fewer people on the streets in the winter, the Hampden County municipal police department told the HPAO Bureau and so we manage our money accordingly. Monies for anti-gang and anti-violence grants are expected to be less this year, he told the Bureau, which will put a premium on manpower and cost management.

Illegal Gun Crime prevalence still dangerous

Some police departments, including larger urban communities, reported a reduced prevalence of gun crime but that success does not diminish the seriousness of the illegal firearms incidents as noted in a 60 day sample of the police department arrest log in a Hampden County community. The arrest incidents below cover the last three months and the firearms violations are highlighted. The HPAO Bureau notes, as it was told by other police departments, the prevalence of drug and violent activity in addition to the firearms violations are commonly intertwined occurrences.

APPENDIX – Sample Arrest log

Arrest Status Report

Arranged by DATE

From: 11/08/2009 Thru: 01/08/2010

A -> Approved

J -> Juvenile

R -> Released S=Summons

January 2010

Arrest Date> 01/06/2010 @ 1435

Location> Zone: Sector A N. End/Memorial
INSIDE

101 LOWELL ST 907

Offenses> (1) DEFAULT WARRANT 0923CR006742 **CARRY FIREARM W/O LIC**

IBR: 90Z - ALL OTHER OFFENSES

(2) DEFAULT WARRANT 0923CR0033598 **POSSESS FIREARM W/O FID**

IBR: 90Z - ALL OTHER OFFENSES

December 2009

Arrest Date> 12/18/2009 @ 2135

Location> Zone: Sector H1 Forest Park
IN THE REAR OF APT BLOCK

33 LONGHILL ST

Offenses> (1) ASSAULT W/DANGEROUS WEAPON

IBR: 13A - AGGRAVATED ASSAULT

(2) ASSAULT W/DANGEROUS WEAPON

IBR: 13A - AGGRAVATED ASSAULT

(3) A&B WITH DANGEROUS WEAPON

IBR: 13A - AGGRAVATED ASSAULT

(4) MOTOR VEH, MALICIOUS DAMAGE TO

IBR: 290 - DESTRUCTION / DAMAGE / VANDALI

(5) **FIREARM, CARRY WITHOUT LICENSE**

IBR: 520 - **WEAPON LAW VIOLATIONS**

Arrest Date> 12/17/2009 @ 1011

Location> Zone: Sector F2 Old&Upper Hill
90 HICKORY ST H

Offenses> (1) DEFAULT WARRANT-#0823CR003611-**FIREARM,CARRY W/O LICENSE**

IBR: 90Z - ALL OTHER OFFENSES

Arrest Date> 12/15/2009 @ 1825

Location> Zone: Sector E1 Metro/South End
ON A PUBLIC WAY
DWIGHT ST

Offenses> (1) **FIREARM WITHOUT LICENSE, POSSESS**
IBR: 520 - **WEAPON LAW VIOLATIONS**
(2) **POSSESSION AMMO W/O ID (MACE + AMMO)**
IBR: 90Z - ALL OTHER OFFENSES

Arrest Date> 12/15/2009 @ 1825

Location> Zone: Sector A N. End/Memorial
PATTON ST

Offenses> (1) **POSSESSION AMMO W/O ID (MACE + AMMO)**
IBR: 90Z - ALL OTHER OFFENSES
(2) **FIREARM, CARRY WITHOUT LICENSE**
IBR: 520 - **WEAPON LAW VIOLATIONS**

Arrest Date> 12/11/2009 @ 1130

Location> Zone: Sector C East Springfield
ON THE SIDEWALK
WINDEMERE ST

Offenses> (1) **DRUG, POSSESS TO DISTRIB CLASS B**
IBR: 35A - **DRUG / NARCOTIC VIOLATIONS**
(2) **DRUG VIOLATION NEAR SCHOOL/PARK**
IBR: 35A - **DRUG / NARCOTIC VIOLATIONS**
(3) **FIREARM WITHOUT LICENSE, POSSESS**
IBR: 520 - **WEAPON LAW VIOLATIONS**
(4) **POSSESSION AMMO W/O ID (MACE + AMMO)**
IBR: 90Z - ALL OTHER OFFENSES
(5) **FIREARM IN FELONY, POSSESS**
IBR: 520 - **WEAPON LAW VIOLATIONS**
(6) **DRUG, POSSESS TO DISTRIB CLASS D**

Arrest Date> 12/11/2009 @ 1130

Location> Zone: Sector C East Springfield
66 WINDEMERE ST

Offenses> (1) **FIREARM WITHOUT LICENSE, POSSESS**
IBR: 520 - **WEAPON LAW VIOLATIONS**
(2) **POSSESSION AMMO W/O ID (MACE + AMMO)**
IBR: 90Z - ALL OTHER OFFENSES
(3) **DRUG, POSSESS TO DISTRIB CLASS D**
IBR: 35A - **DRUG / NARCOTIC VIOLATIONS**
(4) **DRUG VIOLATION NEAR SCHOOL/PARK**

Arrest Date> 12/10/2009 @ 0335
Location> Zone: Sector F2 Old&Upper Hill
305 WALNUT ST
Offenses> (1) **FIREARM, CARRY WITHOUT LICENSE**
IBR: 520 - **WEAPON LAW VIOLATIONS**
(2) **POSSESSION AMMO W/O ID (MACE + AMMO)**
IBR: 90Z - ALL OTHER OFFENSES

November 2009

Arrest Date> 11/30/2009 @ 0220
Location> Zone: Sector E1 Metro/South End
INTERSECTION OF
STEARNS SQ
Offenses> (1) **FIREARM WITHOUT LICENSE, POSSESS**
IBR: 520 - **WEAPON LAW VIOLATIONS**
(2) **POSSESSION AMMO W/O ID (MACE + AMMO)**
IBR: 90Z - ALL OTHER OFFENSES
(3) A&B ON POLICE OFFICER
IBR: 13B - SIMPLE ASSAULT
(4) RESIST ARREST
IBR: 90Z - ALL OTHER OFFENSES

Arrest Date> 11/30/2009 @ 0220
Location> Zone: Sector E1 Metro/South End
STEARNS SQ
Offenses> (1) **FIREARM IN FELONY, POSSESS LGE CAPACITY, SUBSQ.**
IBR: 520 - **WEAPON LAW VIOLATIONS**
(2) **POSSESSION AMMO W/O ID (MACE + AMMO)**
IBR: 90Z - ALL OTHER OFFENSES
(3) LICENSE SUSPENDED/REVOKED, OP MV WITH
IBR: 99 - TRAFFIC, TOWN BY-LAW OFFENSES

Arrest Date> 11/27/2009 @ 2230
Location> Zone: Sector E2 Metro/6Corners
IN ROADWAY, 38 RIFLE ST
Offenses> (1) COCAINE, POSSESS TO DISTRIBUTE
IBR: 35A - DRUG / NARCOTIC VIOLATIONS
(2) DRUG, POSSESS TO DISTRIB CLASS D
IBR: 35A - DRUG / NARCOTIC VIOLATIONS
(3) DRUG, POSSESS TO DISTRIB CLASS E
IBR: 35A - DRUG / NARCOTIC VIOLATIONS
(4) RESIST ARREST
(5) MOTOR VEH, MALICIOUS DAMAGE TO
IBR: 290 - DESTRUCTION / DAMAGE / VANDALI
(6) **FIREARM, LARCENY OF**
IBR: 23H - ALL OTHER LARCENY (7) A&B ON POLICE OFFICER

Arrest Date> 11/25/2009 @ 1917

Location> Zone: Sector F2 Old&Upper Hill
321 WALNUT ST

Offenses> (1) ASSAULT TO ROB, **FIREARM-ARMED**

IBR: 120 - ROBBERY

(2) DEFAULT WARRANT

IBR: 90Z - ALL OTHER OFFENSES

(3) FIREARM WITHOUT LICENSE, POSSESS

IBR: 520 - **WEAPON LAW VIOLATIONS**

Arrest Date> 11/13/2009 @ 0935

Location> Zone: Sector A N. End/Memorial
IN FRONT OF

56 WASHBURN ST

Offenses> (1) DRUG, POSSESS TO DISTRIB CLASS A

IBR: 35A - DRUG / NARCOTIC VIOLATIONS

(2) DRUG VIOLATION NEAR SCHOOL/PARK

IBR: 35A - DRUG / NARCOTIC VIOLATIONS

(3) FIREARM IN FELONY, POSSESS

IBR: 520 - **WEAPON LAW VIOLATIONS**

(4) **FIREARM WITHOUT LICENSE, POSSESS**

IBR: 520 - **WEAPON LAW VIOLATIONS**

(5) **POSSESSION AMMO W/O ID (MACE + AMMO)**

IBR: 90Z - ALL OTHER OFFENSES

Arrest Date> 11/13/2009 @ 0935

Location> Zone: Sector A N. End/Memorial
IN FRONT OF

56 WASHBURN ST

Offenses> (1) DRUG, POSSESS TO DISTRIB CLASS A

IBR: 35A - DRUG / NARCOTIC VIOLATIONS

(2) DRUG VIOLATION NEAR SCHOOL/PARK

IBR: 35A - DRUG / NARCOTIC VIOLATIONS

(3) **FIREARM IN FELONY, POSSESS**

IBR: 520 - WEAPON LAW VIOLATIONS

(4) FIREARM WITHOUT LICENSE, POSSESS

IBR: 520 - **WEAPON LAW VIOLATIONS**

(5) **POSSESSION AMMO W/O ID (MACE + AMMO)**

IBR: 90Z - ALL OTHER OFFENSES

¹ The HPAO Bureau had a 57 percent response rate to its survey

² It should be noted that the communities identified by the ATF data represent only the most egregious cases, in each year of reported data from the ten most numerous communities with gun trace results, the ATF notes that other Massachusetts communities reported gun trace data. Those communities are not identified by name in the trace system reports of the ATF. After the top ten, the ATF statistics note that in calendar year 2008 “there were 139 additional municipalities that accounted for 541 other traces.

³ Of the 1534 guns recovered and traced, the source state for the gun was found in 890 traces, or about half of the attempts.

⁴ Massachusetts Statistics, Secretary of the Commonwealth, found at URL: <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/cis/cismaf/mflc.htm>

⁵ Statistics: Firearms Trace Data, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Office of Strategic Intelligence and Information. **See URL: <http://www.atf.gov/statistics/>.**

⁶ From Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Office of Strategic Intelligence and Information

⁷ “At A Glance reports,” Town of Barnstable, Town of Norton, Mass. Department of Revenue, local Services Division, Mass.gov website link to DOR.

⁸ A “209A” restraining order refers to a particular chapter of the Massachusetts General Laws (Chapter 209A) and is a protection order to prevent abuse in domestic relations. The order is issued by a Massachusetts “superior, probate and family, district or Boston municipal court departments of the trial court.”

⁹ “The Movement of Illegal Guns in America: The Link between gun laws and interstate gun trafficking,” Mayors Against Illegal Guns, December 2008. Available at URL: www.mayorsagainstillegalsguns.org