

JOLIET POLICE DEPARTMENT  
DAVID L GERDES  
CHIEF  
815/724-3201  
FAX 815/724-3290

CITY OF



JOLIET

150 W. WASHINGTON STREET  
JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60432-4139  
April 25, 2000

Herman Goldstein Award Selection Committee  
Police Executive Research Forum (PERF)  
1120 Connecticut Avenue  
NW Suite 930  
Washington, DC 20036

**REF: Herman Goldstein Award**

To whom it may concern:

I would like to nominate the enclosed problem-oriented policing project, **"Guntrack Project - Gun Violence Reduction through Intervention and Deterrence"** for the 2000 Herman Goldstein Award for Excellence in Problem-Oriented Policing.

Sincerely,

David L. Gerdes  
Chief of Police

Enclosures

2000 Herman Goldstein Award  
Excellence in **Problem-Oriented Policing**  
Summary

**GUNTRACK PROJECT**  
Gun Violence Reduction through Intervention and Deterrence

*Submitted by*

Lieutenant Patrick **Kerr**  
&  
Officer Thomas Grutzius

Joliet Police Department



# GUNTRACK PROJECT

## Gun Violence Reduction through Intervention and Deterrence

### NATURE OF THE PROBLEM

In 1996 the GUNTRACK Project was initiated to address gun violence in Joliet, Illinois. Much of the gun violence can be attributed to a gang problem that has been maturing since 1982. While numbers decreased by 52% between 1990 and 1999, there were still 84 gang related shootings resulting in 26 injuries.

### SCANNING PROCESS

In January 1999, a database was developed to allow the efficient scanning of the problem. While waiting for the database to yield analysis results, GUNTRACK personnel made traditional criminal cases against violators for illegal firearms transfers, with limited success.

### ANALYSIS PROCESS

In December 1999, analysis confirmed our suspicion that prohibited parties (i.e., felons, juveniles, **non-FOID** holders) were major contributors to the gun violence problem in Joliet. This analysis **also** revealed several other aspects of the problem that had not been addressed, such as gun violence as it relates to domestic violence, mentally unstable subjects, and criminal gangs, and helped the Department structure effective traditional and non-traditional responses to several components of the gun violence problem in Joliet were not performed prior to the initiation of this project.

### RESPONSE PROCESS

- > Illegal Firearms Transfers. Every seized firearm is traced for illegal firearm transfer.
- > Domestic Violence Suspects; to possess a firearm in the State of Illinois requires individuals to obtain a Firearms Owner Identification Card (FOID). A spousal abuser convicted for the offense of Domestic Battery or the subject of an Order of Protection, will result in the revocation of FOID privileges and right to possess firearms.
- Clear & Present Danger Subjects; mentally unstable subjects or individuals who represent a clear & present danger to them and others will have their FOID privileges revoked.
- > **Source-of-Supply** of Firearms for Criminal Gangs; all gang members and associate gang members are checked for FOID's. Firearms purchases are placed on a database and forwarded to Investigation Division for intelligence purposes, and to initiate a proactive investigation of illegal gun traffickers.
- > Partnerships with Schools; the Department has established partnerships with the public high schools, and assisted them to develop contingency plans in the event of a shooting or hostage situation occurring at either of the schools.

### ASSESSMENT PROCESS

- > Arrests and prosecution of 3 illegal firearm traffickers has occurred,
- > FOID privileges of 15 spousal abusers and mentally unstable subjects revoked.
- Firearms **source-of-supply** for criminal gangs identified.
- > Fear of gun-violence in the high schools reduced.

# Joliet Police Department



## GUNTRACK PROJECT Gun Violence Reduction through Intervention and Deterrence

*Submitted by*

Lieutenant Patrick Kerr

&

Officer Thomas Grutzius

Project Contact Person: Patrick Kerr  
Tactical Unit / Lieutenant  
150 W. Washington St.  
**Joliet, IL 60432**  
815-724-3242  
815-724-3290  
E-mail - **pb1ka** @ aol.com

## GUNTRACK Project Background

In November 1996, after attending the Problem Oriented Policing Conference in San Diego, California, the abstract of an idea for this project was envisioned. The very broad goal of the GUNTRACK Project was to reduce gun violence in Joliet. Due to staffing limitations, the original project only allowed personnel to minimally address the problem.

Initially, the only methodology utilized was to investigate obvious 'straw purchasers' of firearms; individuals with legitimate Firearms Owners Identification Card (FOID), who purchase firearms legally, and illegally transfer them to prohibited parties, felons, non-FOID possessors, and juveniles.

Supporting this project was the decision made in September 1996 for the Joliet Police Department to trace all firearms seized in Joliet through the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms.

Initially, criminal cases made against suspected 'straw dealers' were few and far between. As it so often the case with many well-intentioned projects, the Response came before adequate Scanning and Analysis of the problem, which brings us to the GUNTRACK Project in 1999.

### GUNTRACK - 1999

In January 1999 GUNTRACK personnel decided to reevaluate the project. In order to adequately attack the problem of gun violence, it would be necessary to develop a database that would allow not only for the efficient input and access of data, but to also allow personnel to implement the SARA Model of Scanning, Analyzing, Responding, and Assessing the problem.

While waiting for the database to yield results, personnel continued to make criminal cases against violators for illegal firearms transfers, with some success. As the year progressed, a \$22,000 matching-funds overtime grant was obtained from the Illinois Youth Violence Prevention Authority by the Department's Special Project Coordinator, allowing personnel more time to concentrate on the problem.

Before considering the data base results, it is necessary to look at the status of gun violence in the City of Joliet.

### SCANNING THE PROBLEM

Scanning the gun violence data in Joliet indicated that all elements of a problem were present:

1. there were 2 or more incidents similar in nature,
2. the problem caused harm to victims and community alike,
3. the public expects the Joliet Police Department to do something about it.

Violent crime involving firearms had been on the increase since 1982, with the steady maturation of several criminal gangs in Joliet. The problem was obvious; one only need consider the last nine years of violent crime statistics gathered by the Investigation Division.

<b>VIOLENT CRIMES</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>1992</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>
<b>Murders</b>	23	22	15	18	18	16	13	16	11	11
<b>Gang-related Murders</b>	15	9	11	11	10	10	8	10	8	7
<b>Gang-related Shootings</b>	185	128	227	296	180	146	128	159	128	84
<b>Gang-related Wounded</b>	60	81	88	85	52	50	50	57	34	26
<b>Drive-by Shootings</b>	88	58	114	124	71	62	38	55	48	16

Fortunately, even as early as 1996, there occurred a reduction in violent gun crime in Joliet, and nationally as well. There were significant reductions in violent crime between 1990 and 1996 when this project began, 1996 and 1999, and 1990 and 1999. See Appendix 1.

## VICTIMS AND SUSPECTS

As part of the problem solving process, it is necessary to identify who the victims are, and when possible, the suspects as well. See Appendix 2.

If violent crime were going down, why would there be a need for a project to reduce violent crime? Of equal importance is to try to determine the cause of the reduction. Many in criminology are divided as to the reason for the decline.

Some **hint** that the decline is the product of the Neighborhood Policing strategies implemented in the last ten years in the United States. Others say it is the use of zero tolerance initiatives more reminiscent of traditional policing models of the 70's.

Many **criminologists** attribute the reduction in violent crime to a smaller proportion of young men now in their crime-prone years, currently at its lowest since 1980. The traditional peak age for committing violent crime is 17. James Alan Fox, a professor at Northeastern University's College of Criminal Justice in Boston, sees a new threat over the next 10 years as baby boomers' children reach the prime years for criminality. Fox warns of a future juvenile crime wave so bad that "we will look back at the 1990's and call them the good old days."

In 'Trends in Juvenile Violence', Fox reports that the rate of homicides committed by adults 25 and older declined 25 percent as the baby boomers matured, while the homicide rate among 18 to 24-year olds increased 61 percent. Added to this problem, Fox noted that the rate of homicide of younger teens ages 14 to 17 more than doubled.

Fox further indicates that even if the per-capita rate of teen homicide remains the same, the number of 14 to 17 year olds who commit murder will increase from today's rate of 4,000 per year to 5,000 annually in 2005 due to the population growth alone.

The prudent are not quick to cite their initiatives as the cause of the reduction in violent crime, because if there is an increase, then they must take responsibility for the growth as well.

With this in mind, 1999 marked the first year GUNTRACK personnel were able to gather statistical information on all seized crime guns, sufficient to adequately scan the problem. Listed below is the number and type of firearms seized in Joliet in 1999.

### GUNTRACK Project Statistics - 1999

FIREARM TYPE	1998	1999
# Seized firearms:	216	160
# Recovered handguns:	174	135    84.4%
Semi-auto pistols:    71    53%		
Revolvers:                64    47%		
# Recovered shotguns:	25	15    9.4%
# Recovered rifles:	17	10    6.2%
# Recovered machineguns:	0	0

By analyzing the firearm seizures, it is obvious that the small size and portability make the handgun the preferred Joliet crime gun, constituting 84 percent of the firearms recovered. This high handgun percentage is similar to other handgun seizures over the past ten years in Joliet. See Appendix 3.

The cost of some prestigious firearm makes and types can prove prohibitive to the quick turnover of crime guns that may have to be summarily abandoned on the approach of law enforcement. This has led to the proliferation of cheap, so-called 'Saturday Night' specials, costing \$60.00 or less.

Appendix 4 details the analysis of the preferred Joliet crime-gun, including the exact brands and calibers of two or more firearm makes seized in Joliet in 1999.

Regarding pistols and revolvers, it was a surprise to find that the relatively expensive Smith & Wesson was the handgun of choice, although cheap 'Saturday Night' specials account for 32 firearms, or 20% of firearms seized.

### CRIME-GUN SOURCE OF SUPPLY

Prior to analyzing the gun violence problem in Joliet, there was a common Department perception that other states were the suppliers of firearms. It is only by the complete tracing of every firearm seized that the entire scope of the problem can be determined. Listed in Appendix 5 is the source of supply, by state, of all firearms seized in Joliet in 1999.

The State of Illinois is definitely a **source-of-supply** state for crime guns in the City of Joliet with 44 percent of the total recovered firearms, 69 percent of traceable firearms. The majority of the problem cannot be blamed on other states. Sixteen other states supplied only 23 percent of the crime guns.

A significant number of unsuccessful gun traces, **some** 36 percent, are due to business record errors, untraceable firearms, and **pre-1969** Gun Control Act of 1968, and pre-1985 (Brady Bill) firearms (these firearms were sold before accurate record keeping was mandated). Untraceable firearms will always frustrate the ability of law enforcement to **hold** all accountable for illegal firearm transfers.

A recent development may reduce the number of unsuccessful gun traces. As of February 7, 2000, the ATF has directed all Federal Firearm Licensees who have 10 or more crime guns with a "time-to-crime" of three years or less, to report all gun trade-ins on a quarterly basis. This would in **part** have the effect of taking the **pre-1969**, and the **pre-1985** guns, commonly called 'cold' or untraceable guns, and putting them back into the **system**.

Because Illinois is a source state, it's important to know what Illinois Federal Firearms Licensees (FFL's) sold firearms that later became crime guns. In Appendix 6 are the Illinois FFL's who sold two or more crime guns seized in Joliet in 1999, and the various types of crimes, and other characteristics:

- ✔ Number of crime guns in the possession of their original purchasers.
- ✔ Number of crime guns in the possession of other than the original purchaser.
- > Number of felony possessors.
- ✔ Number of possessors without a FOID.
- > Number of juvenile possessor.
- > Number of possessor FOID holders.
- ✔ Number of stolen or found firearms; a found firearm is an indicator of a crime gun.

An FFL with a high percentage of purchaser/possessor crime guns might indicate a dealer with a more responsible business ethic, whose policy is to avoid 'straw sales' at all cost. This dealer will in all likelihood refuse to sell the more inexpensive 'Saturday Night' specials, accessories, or armor these types of firearms.

Similarly, if an FFL has a high percentage of secondary possessors, one might reason that 'straw sales' do occur, probably more frequently than in the type of business mentioned above. This FFL's marketing strategy is probably targeted only on the bottom line, with no deference to the long-term health of society, or the firearm industry; and that inexpensive 'Saturday Night' specials are sold, and those who would buy them are catered to.

An analysis of the three local Federal Firearm Licensees (FFL) with the most crime guns (25 total firearms between the three), is extremely revealing. These FFL's are Rinks, Illinois Weapons Inc., and Mega Sports, respectively.

Rinks, just north of Lockport, Illinois in unincorporated Will County, sold the largest number of crime guns seized in Joliet in 1999, accounting for 15 firearms, or 9.4% of seized firearms; or 14.6% of all traceable firearms. 9 of these guns, or 60%, ended up in the hands of other than the original purchaser. Rinks records are not computerized, and the disdain for law enforcement presence during GUNTRACK investigations in their establishment is obvious.

Illinois Weapons Inc., (IWI) formerly located in Crest Hill, Illinois, and now out of business, was second in sales of crime guns seized in Joliet; all of the 6 seized firearms ended up in the hands of secondary parties, or were found (indicator of a crime gun). The former owner, Sam Earl, is now deceased. Over the last 3 ½ years, it has been the rule, not the exception, when a trace leads to IWI, only to find out the records of sale are 'lost or stolen.' This would be an indicator of at least poor business skills and practices. More likely, this would be an indicator of firearm sales off the books, or 'straw sales' done with a wink and a nudge to prohibited parties.

Mega Sports is located in Plainfield, Illinois, and is probably the distributor of the largest volume of firearms in the area. All 4 of the crime guns emanating from this business were sourced to the original purchaser. Of the approximately 5,000 firearms sold in 1999, only 4 firearms, or .08% came back as crime guns. Of these 4 firearms, 2 were gun turn-ins, reducing the crime guns to .04%.

The owner, Mark Daniels, is one of four Federal Firearms Licensee's sitting on the Illinois State Police FFL Advisory Board, consisting of FFL's, the Illinois State Police and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms.



Mega Sports records are computerized, and all traces through his business are handled in a businesslike manner. Mr. Daniels will not stock the less expensive 'Saturday Night' specials, nor will he sell accessories, or gunsmith these firearms. Mr. Daniel will also not sell to individuals that come from communities that restrict certain types of firearm ownership such as:

1. Chicago, Morton Grove, and Oak Park, with local handgun ordinances on ownership.
2. Aurora and Cook County with local ordinance on semi-automatic military style firearms.

Mr. Daniels sales policies are directed at providing services and education to the law-abiding gun enthusiast, and do not cater to others.

## CRIME-GUN POSSESSOR

In scanning the gun violence problem in Joliet, one of the main components is the possessor. See [Appendix 7](#).

An analysis of the criminal profile of gun-crime possessors indicates that of the 127 possessors, 80 individuals, or 63%, are prohibited parties; felons, juveniles, and non-FOID holders. Any juvenile possession of firearms is intolerable, and the investigation of straw dealers to this market is our number 1 priority; felons are a close second; other prohibited parties come in third place. At the start of this project in 1996, it was thought that there were a considerable number of prohibited parties in possession of firearms. Until now, the picture was not clear on this issue.

In conducting investigations into how prohibited parties come by their illegal firearms, it is frustrating how often these inquiries are thwarted by dead-end circumstances beyond the control of the investigators. These roadblocks to complete investigations include untraceable firearms, and out-of-state purchasers and FFL's; these conditions make it difficult, if not impossible to adequately investigate these cases.

## JUVENILE & FELON - ACCESS TO FIREARMS

By analyzing [Appendix 8](#), we can attempt to identify patterns of juveniles and felons in acquiring illegal firearms. This analysis indicates that even when there are a high percentage of traceable firearms from within the State of Illinois, it is still difficult to put criminal cases on the responsible parties. Early on in the program, personnel recognized loopholes in the gun laws.

There is currently no requirement to report a lost or stolen firearm; three of the above cases involved firearms that were reported stolen. When combined with the untraceable firearms, and out-of-state purchasers and FFL's, it is obvious why efficient investigation is difficult.

## CRIME-GUN PURCHASER

On the other end of the equation is the purchaser, without whom there would be no gun violence problem. Listed in [Appendix 9](#) is the profile of the purveyors of this problem.

An obvious disparity is apparent in analyzing the purchaser profile. While 56% of the purchasers are Caucasian, 62% of the victims are African American.

Listed below is the current 1999 case status that varies from day-to-day. Both Straw Purchaser cases went to the Grand Jury, and no indictments were returned. Exceptional Clearances involved cases that could be made, but would not serve justice.

<b>CASE STATUS</b>	
Suspected Straw Purchasers:	2
Exceptional Clearances:	2
# Closed GUNTRACK Cases:	94
# GUNTRACK Arrests:	3

### PROBLEM CLARIFICATION

After thorough Scanning and Analysis, the problem is obvious. Prohibited parties, those who cannot legally possess firearms, felons, juveniles, and non-FOID holders, are major contributors to the gun violence problem in Joliet.

### GUNTRACK GOAL

Initially, the goal of the GUNTRACK Project was to reduce gun violence. After the above scanning and analysis, the current goal of the GUNTRACK Project is to lessen the ability of prohibited parties to acquire firearms; it is hoped that such efforts will reduce gun violence.

### RESPONDING TO THE PROBLEM

As in many other projects of this type, often-incomplete analysis is done, and responses, though well meaning, are executed in haste. When this project was initiated in November 1996, the only methodology utilized was RESPONSE #1, the investigation of illegal firearms transfers.

As previously stated, staffing limitations prior to the availability of the IVPA grant in June 1999, allowed only obvious cases to be investigated. Towards the end of 1999, after careful scanning and analysis, personnel were able to develop and implement several other stratagems to address the problem. These methods are listed below:

#### RESPONSE #1: INVESTIGATION OF ILLEGAL FIREARMS TRANSFERS

In order to track the progress of each investigation, an Investigative Worksheet was devised and is utilized for each investigation. This worksheet can be seen in Appendix 10.

1. The chain of ownership of every recovered firearm is traced, documented, and investigated; it is only by the thorough analysis of all recovered firearms, that we can identify the **source-of-supply** of illegal firearms to prohibited parties, and develop the appropriate methodologies to reduce gun violence.
1. Whenever an illegal firearm transaction is discovered, every effort is made to prosecute the straw purchaser/seller; every suspected straw purchaser is run through the Firearms Transfer Inquiry Program (**FTIP**), to determine if he/she made other firearms purchases which may have also been illegally transferred to prohibited parties.
3. Beginning January 1, 1999, each firearm with an eradicated serial number is submitted to either the State Crime Lab or the ATF; in the past, it was necessary for a firearm to be involved in a serious **crime** before the State Crime Lab would try to raise the serial number. In any event, it is important to raise the numbers to determine if the firearm is stolen, or determine if it is an attempt to conceal the identity of a straw purchaser.
4. Each recovered firearm is placed on LEADS as a recovered firearm; this allows other police departments who have developed programs similar to ours to discover the denouement of each crime **gun**.

#### RESULTS OF RESPONSE #1:

As a direct result of GUNTRACK investigations, three criminal cases were developed in 1999, that would have gone unnoticed but for the existence of this project, and are listed below:

GUNTRACK #	ARRESTEE	CHARGES & SENTENCE
99-009	Male/Black 34 yoa	5 Counts – Failure to Maintain Records – 2 Years Conditional Discharge
99-014	Male/Black 28 yoa	3 Counts – Unlawful Transfer of Firearm – 3 Years DOC
99-045	Male/White 33 yoa	Failure to Maintain Records

As previously stated, a major drawback in thoroughly investigating illegal firearms trafficking is a loophole in current gun laws. There is currently no penalty or provision in the law for failure to report a stole or lost firearm. An unreported stolen or lost firearm provides an alibi, albeit illusory, for the illegal firearms trafficker.

In the numerous investigations over the last 3 ½ years where probable straw purchasers gave the above alibi, and charges against these subjects were unable to be placed because of this alibi, GUNTRACK personnel continued to monitor their activities through the Firearm Tracing Inquiry Program by checking purchases on their FOID's. To date, none of the probable straw purchasers have made further gun purchases.

This would indicate that once a GUNTRACK inquiry was focused on a suspect, and he/she became aware of their status as a constant target of investigation and the penalties for illegal transfer of firearms, they were reluctant to gamble the risk of criminal prosecution for illegal firearms transfers.

**RESPONSE #2: INVESTIGATION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SUSPECTS & CLEAR-PRESENT-DANGER SUBJECTS**

During 1999, it came to the attention of GUNTRACK personnel that some FOID possessors were violating provisions of the Firearms Owner Identification Act. The below listed responses address these violations:

1. Beginning November 1, 1999, daily reports are reviewed checking every Domestic Violence case; every spousal abuser with a valid FOID card is run on LEADS to check for a Domestic Battery conviction or valid Order of Protection; in the event a positive response is present on either, a FOID revocation request is sent to the State Police, denying the violator from further firearms purchases.
2. Based upon the above report review process, a Domestic Violence Suspect data base has been developed, allowing GUNTRACK personnel to continuously monitor all previously identified Domestic Violence Suspects; if these suspects are eventually served with an Order of Protection, or receive a Domestic Battery conviction, their FOID privileges will be revoked.
3. Based upon the above report review process, subjects who threaten or attempt suicide, manifest behavior that would lead a reasonable person to believe that he/she represents a danger to themselves or others, or who are admitted for treatment at a mental hospital or clinic, represent a clear and present danger, and will have their FOID card revoked.

**GUNTRACK FOID REVOCATIONS**

Total # of FOID Revocations	15
Order of Protection:	7 47%
Domestic Battery Conviction:	0
Felony Conviction:	0
Clear & Present Danger or Mental Institution Commitment:	8 53%

**RESULTS OF RESPONSE #2:**

In 1999, GUNTRACK personnel requested and received FOID revocations on fifteen subjects. Seven of the subjects' FOIDs were revoked either for the issuance of an Order of Protection, or for Violation of an Order of Protection.

Eight subjects' FOIDs were revoked when they represented a clear and present danger following an attempted or threatened suicide, or were admitted to a mental hospital.

Only time will tell if the FOID revocations of the fifteen spousal abusers and Clear-Present-Danger subjects will help reduce gun violence in Joliet. Had GUNTRACK personnel not requested the revocation of their FOID's, it is likely that all would still have the privilege to legally purchase firearms in this State.

While it is possible that these subjects could procure firearms by other means, through burglaries, or by purchasing black-market firearms on the street, the GUNTRACK Project holds them accountable for their action, and precludes the Segal acquisition of firearms from individuals who obviously should not have them.

A stumbling block to efficiently address the Clear-Present-Danger subject is the privacy right existing between the doctor/hospital and the patient. There have occurred some incidents where it was unclear if the patient was committed to the hospital or clinic for mental **treatment**. Doctors and hospitals will not provide information on their patient's condition without a Court Order, unless their condition is extreme. Due to this Right to Privacy issue, there is an extended time delay in requesting the revocation of FOID privileges. This delay in revocation of FOID privileges allows a disturbed person time to make more purchases of firearms.

The Clear-Present-Danger subject also has a Fourth Amendment right prohibiting unreasonable seizure of his/her firearms when the subject still retains possession of a valid FOID.

The Department needs to review policy and procedure regarding the seizure and temporary storage of firearms from these CPD subjects for a reasonable time to ensure complete investigation of their situation. There must be a balance between doing our utmost to guarantee that potentially violent mentally disturbed individuals are denied access to firearms when appropriate, and at the same time not violate his or her Fourth Amendment rights.

### RESPONSE #3:      **PROACTIVE INVESTIGATIONS OF SOURCE-OF-SUPPLY OF FIREARMS FOR CRIMINAL GANGS**

As each seized firearm was traced, it became apparent that too many gang members (36%) were in possession of firearms. With access to the Department's Gang Intelligence files, GUNTRACK personnel were able to begin looking at a possible source of supply of firearms to criminal gangs.

1. Beginning December 1, 1999, non-felon gang members and associate gang members are checked for FOID cards; any positive responses will be cross referenced with the FTIP program; potential crime guns will be identified before recovery of same; probable straw purchasers for criminal gangs may be identified.
2. It may be possible to direct informants at known straw purchasers and develop gunrunning cases against individuals identified through this method,
3. In the event a non-felon gang member, or associate gang member crime gun surfaces, the Investigation Division will have the advanced intelligence to move against purchaser and criminal gang,
4. Develop a database of non-felon gang members and associate gang members FOID holders to allow ease of monitoring suspected illegal firearms purchasers.

### RESULTS OF RESPONSE #3:

To date 997 known and associate gang members have been checked for FOID's. Of these, 32 possess FOID's; 10 have already been revoked by means other than GUNTRACK, and 22 have valid FOID's.

Accessing the Firearms Transfer Inquiry Program (FTIP) indicates the following:

1. 4 of the 22 have at least one positive FTIP inquiry indicating one Firearm purchase;
2. 3 of the 22 have at least two positive FTIP inquiries indicating two firearm purchases;
3. 1 of the 22 have at least four positive FTIP inquiries indicating four firearm purchases,
4. FTIP responses are still pending on 5 of the **FOID** possessors,
5. Since the inception of this phase of the program just three months ago, no crime guns have been recovered attributable to the target population of gang members and associates. However, very few police departments trace all recovered firearms, nor place recovered firearms on LEADS.

Because 52% of traceable firearms end up in the hands of gang members, gang associates, and felons, this phase of the GUNTRACK Program promises to be the most rewarding, through the identification and prosecution of straw purchasers of firearms who deal to the most violent element of our society.

This phase of the project may also allow us to identify trends in the purchasing habits of straw purchasers; as it is often said, 'if it is predictable, it is preventable.'

As part of this phase of the program, as soon as practical, the remaining gang members and associate gang members will be processed similarly.

### RESPONSE #4            **PARTNERSHIPS WITH SCHOOLS**

Based upon the influx of shootings in schools nationwide, the Department SWAT team, the Special Operation Squad (SOS), developed partnerships with the public school system, District 204, reviewing their emergency plans for such events.

This partnership included the following:

- > Review and consult on all emergency plans such as **lockdown** and evacuation drills.
- > Provide security during lockdown and evacuation drill practices.
- Conduct training sessions with teachers detailing the capabilities of the Special Operation Squad in the event of a crisis.
- Implementation of a school takeover scenario.

### ASSESSMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The GUNTRACK Project has allowed this Department to analyze the gun violence problem in Joliet, and identify mechanisms, that with time, will likely aid in a reduction of the problem.

These mechanisms are:

1. Investigation of Illegal Firearms Transfers
2. Investigation of Domestic Violence Suspects & Clear-Present-Danger Subjects
3. Proactive Investigations of **Source-of-Supply** of Firearms for Criminal Gangs
4. Partnerships with Schools

The first mechanism has been of limited success over the past 3 ½ years due to the loopholes in the gun laws regarding the reporting of stolen or lost firearms. Also, these types of investigations are extremely time-consuming, and many of the suspected straw purchasers are disinclined to talk to the police without a lawyer present.

However, investigations into suspected straw purchasers may act as deterrence to repeating the act, even if an arrest and prosecution does not occur.

The second mechanism has been more promising with 15 FOID revocations of Domestic Violence Suspect, and ~~Clear-Present-Danger~~ Subjects, and allows intervention to those who represent an extreme danger to themselves and others. Since November 1, 1999 when GUNTRACK personnel began to review all reports of Domestic Violence and suicidal subjects, 10 subjects have had their FOID's revoked, on a pace to double our revocations of last year.

The third mechanism promises to be the most rewarding in reducing gun violence, because 52% of traceable firearms end up in the hands of gang members, gang associates, and felons. This phase of the GUNTRACK Program promises to be the most rewarding, through the identification and prosecution of straw purchasers of firearms who deal to the most violent element of our society.

The fourth mechanism has allowed the Department to establish partnerships with the public high schools, and develop contingency plans in the event of an active shooter, or hostage situation occurring at either of the schools.

### Agency and Officer Information

The GUNTRACK Project was initially developed and implemented in 1996 by a Sergeant (now a Lieutenant in the Tactical Unit) and a Patrol Officer within the Neighborhood Oriented Policing Team (NOPT), who handled the bear's share of the workload. Towards the end of 1999, as other mechanisms were developed to address the problem, more members were brought in to assist as needed. Currently there are 7 officers who provide support to the project.

As an incentive, members involved in the project could receive overtime on a limited basis, however, members had to at least match their overtime hours with on-duty hours. This overtime was made available by a grant from the Illinois Youth Violence Prevention Authority.

The Boston strategy to prevent youth violence and the San Antonio Youth Firearms Violence initiative served as guides and motivators in addressing the gun violence problem in **Joliet**.

All members of the Joliet Police Department received training in problem solving prior to the initiation of this project. Also, those members assisting with this project received additional training in gun tracing by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms.

The problem-solving model could not be faulted during the execution of this project. The model helped identify problem areas regarding training issues. Approximately 10 percent of the ATF tracing forms are incorrectly or inadequately completed, adding unnecessary time in identifying probable illegal traffickers, and unnecessarily duplicating effort. GUNTRACK personnel are developing a lesson plan to address these training issues.

Department-wide training is also being developed to educate all sworn personnel in the GUNTRACK mechanisms. If successfully implemented, members should be able to intervene and deter gun violence by providing more immediate attention to our valued customers, the citizens of Joliet, Illinois.

## APPENDICES

- Appendix 1.....Violent Crimes/Percent Reduction 1990-1999**
- Appendix 2.....Murders/Suspects & Arrests/Victim Profile**
- Appendix 3.....Firearms Seizures from 1989 to 1999**
- Appendix 4.....Pistol/Revolver Seizures**
- Appendix 5.....State-Crime Gun Source of Supply**
- Appendix 6.....Crime Guns by FFL**
- Appendix 7.....Criminal Profile of Firearms Possessor**
- Appendix 8.....Juvenile & Felons Access to Firearms**
- Appendix 9.....Profile of Purchaser**
- Appendix 10.....Joliet Police Department Guntrack Investigative Worksheet**



## Appendix 1

	VIOLENT CRIMES			PERCENT REDUCTION IN VIOLENT CRIME FROM 1990		
	1990	1996	1999	1990 to 1996 reduction	1996 to 1999 reduction	1990 to 1999 reduction
# Murders:	23	13	11	43%	15%	52%
# Gang-related Murders:	15	8	7	50%	12%	47%
# Gang-related Shootings:	185	128	84	31%	66%	45%
# Gang-related Wounded:	60	50	26	17%	52%	43%
# Drive-by Shootings:	88	38	16	57%	42%	82%

## Appendix 2

MURDER VICTIMS	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Total Number of Murders:	23	22	15	18	18	16	13	16	11	11
MALE:	19	19	13	14	12	14	11	11	11	8
FEMALE:	4	3	2	4	6	2	2	5	0	3
AFRICAN AMERICAN:	11	16	9	10	10	12	8	10	10	5
CAUCASIAN:	4	5	3	5	6	1	4	1	1	3
HISPANIC:	8	1	3	3	2	3	1	5	0	2
17 and under (juvenile):	5	3	0	2	5	1	0	4	0	2
18 to 24 (youth):	7	5	7	7	2	5	8	4	7	3
25 and over (adult):	11	14	8	9	11	10	5	8	4	5
KNOWN ARRESTEES & SUSPECTS	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Total Number of Murders:	23	22	15	18	18	16	13	16	11	11
MALE:	18	17	9	16	11	6	2	9	10	3
FEMALE:	1	3	0	2	1	2	1	0	1	1
AFRICAN AMERICAN:	12	16	2	7	9	6	3	5	10	1
CAUCASIAN:	3	2	3	2	3	1	0	2	1	2
HISPANIC:	4	2	4	7	0	1	0	2	0	1
GANG MEMBER:	9	4	5	9	5	4	2	5	6	1
17 and under (juvenile):	8	6	2	5	0	1	0	3	2	1
18 to 24 (youth):	4	5	6	6	4	4	3	4	8	0
25 and over (adult):	7	9	1	5	8	3	0	2	1	3
MURDER VICTIM PROFILE										
Characteristic	Percentage									
Male:	81%									
Female:	19%									
African American:	62%									
Caucasian:	20%									
Hispanic:	18%									
17 and under (juvenile):	13%									
18 to 24 (youth):	34%									
25 and over (adult):	52%									

### Appendix 3

FIREARMS SEIZURES FROM 1989 TO 1999*											
TYPE	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99
HANDGUN	215	244	258	272	327	312	250	243	188	174	135
<b>% RECOVERED HANDGUNS</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>84%</b>
RIFLE	19	37	24	24	25	22	22	32	28	17	10
SHOTGUN	57	50	44	52	44	39	40	41	35	25	15
TOTAL	291	331	326	348	396	373	312	316	251	216	160

### Appendix 4

#### PISTOL SEIZURES

MAKE	CALIBER							TOTAL
	.22	.25	.32	.380	9mm	.40	.45	
Smith & Wesson					8	1		9
Lorcin	1			5	1			7
Glock					2	3		5
Davis Industries			1	3				4
Colt	1		1	1			1	4
Raven		4						4
Bryco	1			2				3
Tanfoglio		1			2			3
Jennings	2				1			3
Ruger					2		1	3
Beretta	1	1						2
Cal West Co. Inc.	2							2
Taurus	1					1		2
Browning	1				1			2
Bauer		2						2
AMT				1	1			2
Imez				1	1			2

#### REVOLVER SEIZURES

MAKE	CALIBER						TOTAL
	.22	.32	.38	.357	.41	.44	
Smith & Wesson		2	5	3	1		11
Harrington & Richards	2	5		1			8
Ruger	1		1	6			8
Colt	1		4	1			6
Rossi		1	1	2		1	5
RG Industries	3		1				4
Taurus			3	1			4
Arminus		1	1	1			3
Charter Arms			2				2
Interarms			1			1	2

## Appendix 5

### STATE - CRIME GUN SOURCE OF SUPPLY

<b>Total Number of Firearms Seized:</b>		<b>160*</b>	
<b>Number of Traceable Firearms by Dealer:</b>		103	64%
<b>Percent of Traceable Firearms:</b>	<b>Total #</b>	<b>% of Total Firearms Seized 160</b>	<b>% of Traceable Firearms 103</b>
Number of Illinois-source firearms:	71	44%	69%
Number of non-Illinois-source firearms:	32	20%	31%
Alabama	1		
Arkansas	2		
Florida	2		
Georgia	1		
Idaho	1		
Indiana	2		
Iowa	1		
Kansas	1		
Kentucky	4		
Louisiana	2		
Mississippi	3		
Missouri	1		
Nebraska	5		
Ohio	1		
Tennessee	2		
Texas	3		
<b>Number of unsuccessful traces due to Business Record Errors, Untraceable Firearms, Pre-69 &amp; 85 Firearms:</b>		36	23%
<b>Traces Pending:**</b>		21	13%

\* This number does not include 'GUN TURN-IN FIREARMS'. Beginning in the year 2000, all seized or turned in to the Department, will go through the tracing process.

\*\* Because some cases are still open and under investigation, these statistics are not final figures, and are subject to change.

## Appendix 6

### CRIME GUNS BY FFL

FEDERAL FIREARMS LICENSEE	# OF CRIME GUNS	# OF CRIME GUNS; ORIGINAL PURCHASER	# OF CRIME GUNS; SECONDARY POSSESSOR; FOUND FIREARM	FELON	NO FOID	JUVENILE	FOID	STOLEN	FOUND GUN	CRIME IF APPLICABLE
Rinks, Will Co.	15	X X  X X X  X 40%	X X  X X X  X X X X 60%	X   X   X	X X X X  X	X	X X	X       X	Found Gun Agg. Discharge No FOID No FOID No FOID Agg. Discharge UW by Felon Suicide UW UW Res. Burglary Armed Violence Agg. Discharge UW by Felon UW	
Illinois Weapons Inc., Crest Hill	6		X X X X X 100%		X X X X		X	X	UW UW Agg. Battery Found Gun UW Agg. Discharge	
Mega Sports, Plainfield	4	X X X X 100%					X X X X		R. Discharge UW Gun Turn-In Gun Turn-In	
Marshall Gun Shop, Will Co.	3	X 33.3	X X 66.66%		X X		X		Seized Gun Acc. Discharge UW	
Widner & Sons, Will Co.	2		X X 100%		X			X	R. Discharge Found Firearm	
Hillcrest Sporting Goods, Crest Hill	2	X 50%	X 50%		X		X		Agg. Veh. Hijack. Dom. Battery	
K-Mart, New Lenox	2	X 50%	X 50%			X			UW Gun Turn-in	
Midwest Sports, Lyons	2	X 50%	X 50%		X X				Suicide UW	
Constable, Downer's Grove	2		X X 100%		X		X		Res. Burglary UW	
GP Sales Green Valley	2		X X 100%		X		X X	X X	R. Discharge Armed Robbery	

## Appendix 7

### CRIMINAL PROFILE OF FIREARMS POSSESSOR

Possessor Characteristic	1999	
Total Number of Possessors:	127	
Adults:	113	90%
Juveniles:	14	10%
Male:	112	88%
Female:	15	12%
African American:	64	50%
Caucasian:	34	27%
Hispanic:	28	22%
Oriental:	1	<1%
Gang Member/Associates:	46	36%
Felons:	21	16%
Possessor without FOID:	80	63%
Possessor with FOID:	25	20%
Possessor without FOID w/gun turn-in for deceased spouse; military or law enforcement exemption; or unknown:	15	12%
Found firearms:	7	5%
Possessor Age:		
17 and under (juvenile)	14	
18 to 21 (youth prohibited to handgun possession)	16	
21 and over (adult)	95	
Found firearms:	7	
Age unknown:	2	
# of Possessors w/Multiple Firearms:	16	

## Appendix 8

### JUVENILES & FELONS – ACCESS TO FIREARMS

Prohibited Possessor	Un-Traceable	Traceable to Purchaser	In-State FFL	Out-of-State FFL	Time-to-Crime (days)	Insufficient Probable Cause	Purchaser/Supplier Prosecuted	Case Status	
								O P E N	C L O S E D
Juvenile (17 and under)	X		X		unk				X
	X		X		unk				X
		X		X	894			X	
		X		X	10170				X
14 Total		X	X		84	STRAW			X
		X		X	2199				X
					unk			X	
		X		X	unk			X	
		X	X		9431				X
		X	X		1644			X	
	X	X			6014				X
		X		X	unk				X
		X		X	4973			X	
		X		X	4491				X
	21%	64%	36%	36%					
Youth (18 to 21) youth prohibited to handgun possession		X	X		7665			X	
	X	X	X		365		X*		X
		X	X		unk				X
		X	X		1966				X
		X	X	X	1028				X
		X			4677				X
16 Total	X	X	X		unk				X
		X	X		6559			X	
		X	X		1678			X	
	X	X	X		unk				X
		X	X		6989			X	
		X	X		2005			X	
		X	X		8919				X
	X*				unk			X	
	25%	63%	63%	6%	unk			X	
* These two subjects are also listed under felons.									
Felon		X	X		365		X		X
	X				unk		X		X
21 Total	X	X		X	unk				X
	X				6803				X
	X		X		unk		X**		X
		X	X		unk		X**		X
		X		X	2787				X
	X	X			2920			X	
		X	X		unk			X	
		X	X		1996			X	
	X	X	X		9800			X	
		X		X	unk				X
		X		X	10239			X	
		X		X	3164			X	
	X	X	X		unk	Ex. CLR.			X
	X	X	X		2742				X
		X		X	unk			X	
		X	X		140				X
		X	X		unk			X	
		X	X		779			X	
		X	X		6269			X	
	43%	57%	38%	29%					

## Appendix 9

### PROFILE OF PURCHASER

Purchaser Characteristic	1999	
Number of Traceable Firearms by Dealer:	103	
Number of Traceable Purchasers:	80	
Male Purchasers:	71	89%
Female Purchasers:	9	11%
Caucasian:	45	56%
African American:	21	26%
Hispanic:	7	9%
Unknown Race:	7	9%
21 and over:	73	91%
Age unknown:	7	8%

## Appendix 10

### Joliet Police Department GUNTRACK Investigative Worksheet

Assigned Officer \_\_\_\_\_ Date Assigned \_\_\_\_\_

Case Report # \_\_\_\_\_ GUNTRACK # \_\_\_\_\_

#### Date and Initial

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Place recovered firearm into LEADS.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Obtain all pertinent reports and place with permanent file.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Check the possessor and on scene associates for FOID status, short rap sheet, CQH, and CQR.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. If applicable, check the possessor and all associates through FTIP -fax 217-782-9139, Attention: Cheryn Wahl.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. If applicable, check the possessor and all associates through Project LEAD-fax 312-886-7383, Attention: Deb Mero.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Upon receipt of the ATF trace results, check the purchaser for FOID status, short rap sheet, CQH, and CQR.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Check purchaser through FTIP -fax 217-782-9139.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Check the purchaser for multiple purchases through Project LEAD-fax 312-886-7383.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Determine if an Other Criminal Offenses Report code 5000 should be opened.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Check the purchaser on PIMS to determine if he/she made a stolen firearm report.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Obtain a copy of Federal Form 4473 documenting the sale of the firearm.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. If applicable, obtain purchaser's fingerprint card for signature comparison to Federal Form 4473.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. Check the purchaser/possessor with the States Attorney for any recent felony or domestic battery convictions, or orders of protection.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. Check with States Attorneys Office for status of case pending against the possessor, to evaluate possible cooperation to determine source of supply of the firearm.

Note: A FOID revocation letter will be sent to the Illinois State Police when any of the parties encountered display one or more of the following reasons for revocation:

Felony Conviction, Domestic Battery, Order of Protection, Clear and Present Danger, Involvement in Illegal Transfer of a Firearm, Violation of the Firearms Owner Identification Act.