

FACSIMILE COVER SHEET
DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
OFFICE OF POLICY DEVELOPMENT
(ENFORCEMENT)

Phone: (202) 662-0300

Fax: (202) 622-7301

Date:

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TO: Dennis Burke

FAX: 456-7028

FROM: Susan Ginsburg

SUBJECT: FFL Reduction

MESSAGE:

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into to be included in report

Expanded State and Local Cooperative Licensing Initiatives

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The President's memorandum also directed ATF to expand the use of cooperative agreements with State and local law enforcement agencies to address licensing and trafficking problems. Pursuant to this directive, ATF field offices established contact with various licensing, revenue, and local law enforcement offices within their jurisdictions. They worked in partnership with these State and local offices to ensure that licensees are operating in compliance with Federal, State and local laws.

For example, the city of Berkeley, California enacted ordinances that prohibit firearms sales from a residence. ATF provided the city of Berkeley with a computer printout of all the FFLs in the city. There were 34 licensed dealers in the city. Teams consisting of a Berkeley police officer and an ATF inspector conducted face-to-face interviews with these 34 dealers. As a result, the city of Berkeley now has only 1 FFL.

Similar programs have been completed or are still in progress in numerous other cities and jurisdictions throughout the country. The results from some of those areas are as follows:

- New York City - FFL population declined from 987 in 1993 to 259 in 1996
- Baltimore, MD - 58 out of 59 FFLs operating in residential areas surrendered their licenses
- Boston, MA - 119 FFLs in 1994 have been reduced to the current number of 36
- Chicago, IL - Total FFLs have declined from 256 to 11

It should be noted that the decline in the number of licensees generally does not represent a reduction in viable businesses, but in licensees who were unable to comply with State and local laws.

In the past 3 years the FFL population has declined from 288,001 to 135,000. This total decline is a combination of these early firearms initiatives, the increase in licensing fees mandated by the Brady law, and the 1994 Crime law which mandated compliance with State and local laws and notification of chief law enforcement officers. We have attached charts showing the population decline in both FFLs and FFL applicants.

135,000

total current

Firearms Tracing and Illegal Trafficking

Use of Out-of-Business Records for Tracing Purposes

The President's memorandum directed ATF to expand its capability to effectively utilize the firearms transaction records of out-of-business licensees for tracing purposes through the use of automation and other technology.

In FY 1993, the National Tracing Center implemented the Computer Assisted Retrieval System (CARS). This added indexing features to the microfilming procedure of out-of-business records

