



# **TRAFFICKING:**

Case Studies of Five Trafficked Guns in Chicago

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# GUN TRAFFICKING? MEET THE CAGE UNIT

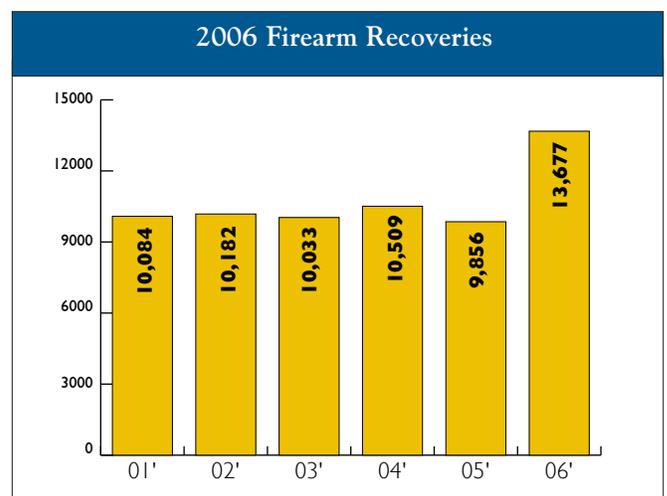
The Chicago Police Department created the CAGE (Chicago Anti-Gun Enforcement) Team in 1996. In conjunction with the *Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF)*, the Chicago Police Department and the CAGE Team began aggressively pursuing and prosecuting those people who have straw-purchased and trafficked firearms for convicted felons, gang members, and other individuals who cannot or will not obtain an Illinois State Firearms Owners Identification Card in order to legally purchase a firearm.

Officers are assigned to a joint CPD/ATF Task Force dedicated to the investigation of interstate and intrastate firearms trafficking cases.

CAGE initiates a weapon trace on all recovered firearms, including those used in the commission of a crime. The tracing process normally begins within 24 hours of the recovery of a gun. In urgent situations, such as homicides or police-related shootings, traces begin as soon as the gun is recovered. All guns recovered by the Chicago Police Department are traced through the *Bureau of ATF's National Tracing Center*. After results are received and a thorough investigation has been conducted, criminal charges can be lodged against the purchaser of the firearm. The gun laws of the State of Illinois and the restrictions on handgun ownership in the City of Chicago have forced criminals to look elsewhere to obtain firearms. The CAGE team is responsible for a drastic decrease in the number of "straw-purchases" that occur in Illinois due to the aggressive pursuit and subsequent prosecution of offenders who violate local

gun laws. The Chicago Police Department recovers approximately 10,000 guns every year. Guns are recovered in association with a wide variety of crimes and are often recovered in the hands of convicted felons who cannot lawfully purchase firearms for themselves.

The CAGE Team notices specific patterns amongst recovered firearms in Chicago that are associated with criminal activity. The majority of recovered firearms have a common denominator; they were all purchased or obtained illegally. Each gun used in a crime has a history and a story to tell. This report provides a synopsis of the stories behind these trafficked weapons. The Chicago Police Department is committed to removing illegal guns from the streets of Chicago as well as prosecuting all who traffick in the illegal gun trade, may it be one firearm trafficked or a multitude of firearms. In this practice we hope to drastically limit and even prevent deadly gun-violence in this City.



# Trafficked Guns in Chicago: Case Studies



## Case Number 1

**Time To Crime:** 803 Days

**Make:** Fratelli Tangfolio

**Type:** Semi-Automatic

**Model:** TA90

**Caliber:** 9mm

**Location:** Chicago, Illinois

**Crime:** Aggravated Battery, Gunrunning

**Trace:** Traced Gun back to offender trafficking weapons

**Suspects Arrested:** One Shooter, One Gunrunner

**Gang**

**Affiliation:** Black Disciples, Rank: Foot Soldier

**Outcome:** Suspect Charged and Sentenced

**Penalty:** Prosecuted and Convicted, Six years imprisonment



## Biography of the Gun Trace

Chicago Police arrested a twenty-three year old man on a gun trafficking charge after tracing the gun used in an Easter Sunday shooting of a seven year old girl to him. Shortly before five in the evening on Easter Sunday, seven-year old Ashlee Poole sat on the front steps of her home eating jellybeans with her little cousin who lived upstairs in the two-flat residence. After hearing gunshots, Ashlee's mother ran out to get the children. While her cousin made it safely inside, Ashlee fell before making it into the safety of the house. She had been struck in the abdomen with a nine-millimeter bullet and could not move her legs. Ashlee fortunately survived and the Chicago Police Department investigated, identified, located and arrested the shooter in this incident. However, as far as the Department was concerned, this case did not end there. There was one more person police pursued following this crime—the gunrunner who supplied the weapon involved in this nearly fatal shooting of a child.

### Other Weapons Gun Trafficked by Offender:

Springfield Rifle, 22 Caliber

Mossberg Shotgun, 20 Gauge Caliber

Davis Pistol, 380 Caliber

Taurus Pistol, 40 Caliber

Beretta Pistol, 25 Caliber

Two Kel-Tec Pistols, 9mm

Glock Pistol, 10mm Caliber

Beretta Pistol, 9mm

Bersa Pistol, 380 Caliber

Iver Johnson Revolver, 38 Caliber

Kel-Tec Pistol, 40 Caliber

# Trafficked Guns in Chicago: Case Studies



## Case Number 2

**Time To Crime:** 54 Days

**Make:** HiPoint

**Type:** Semi-Automatic

**Model:** CF380

**Caliber:** .380

**Location:** Chicago, Illinois

**Crime:** Gun Trafficking, Failure to Maintain Firearm Records

**Links:** Traced Gun back to Gunrunner

**Suspects:** Three Offenders Arrested

**Gang Affiliation:** Denies

**Outcome:** Suspect Charged and Sentenced

**Penalty:** Prosecuted and Convicted.  
Twenty-four Months Conditional Discharge.



## Biography of the Gun Trace

In April 2006 an off duty Chicago Police Officer working security at the Harold Washington Cultural Center became the victim of an Aggravated Battery when he was struck in the back of his head with a handgun. One offender, who was a convicted felon, was arrested for Aggravated Battery and weapons offenses. The handgun he used was recovered and found to have a defaced serial number. This weapon was inventoried and sent to the Illinois State Police Crime Lab where the serial number was recovered.

A firearm trace revealed that firearm was purchased in February 2005 by a female. Officers noted the invalid address listed on the Firearm Transaction Forms in approximately four transactions the offender made in 2005. FOID cards issued through the State revealed that this female offender had three additional weapon purchase transactions involving her FOID card and five other potential weapon purchase transactions involving a previously issued FOID card. The Firearm Transaction Forms also verified that this female offender purchased this weapon as part of a multiple weapon sale. Chicago Police C.A.G.E. Unit officers located offender who related that she had lost her FOID card and did not have any records of the weapons purchased. She was placed in custody without incident for Failure to Maintain Firearm Records. Following arrest, she explained that she purchased weapons for a convicted felon for alleviation of financial problems. The C.A.G.E. Unit officers contacted the State's Attorney to seek gunrunning charges. This offender cooperated with police by giving a statement regarding the guns she bought for this convicted felon and was charged with gunrunning.

### Other Weapons Gun Trafficked by Offender:

2 HiPoint, C9, 9MM Pistols

HiPoint, CF380, .380 Caliber

Romarm, Model 95, .380 Caliber

# Trafficked Guns in Chicago: Case Studies



## Case Number 3

**Time To Crime:** 228 Days

**Make:** Kel Tec

**Type:** Semi-Automatic

**Model:** P11

**Caliber:** 9mm

**Location:** Chicago, Illinois

**Crime:** Gunrunning for Narcotics

**Links:** Traced Gun back to Gunrunner

**Suspects:** Arrested

**Gang Affiliation:** Denied

**Outcome:** Suspect Charged and Sentenced

**Penalty:** Thirty Months Intensive Probation and Twenty Days Sheriff's Work Alternative Program

## Biography of the Gun Trace

On 12 May 2006, a search warrant was executed by the Area 2 Gang Team, and a 9mm, Kel Tec, semi auto pistol and narcotics were recovered from the residence. A firearm trace was initiated and revealed one male to be the purchaser of this firearm in Illinois. A check of the FOID card revealed that this offender had 6 total potential weapons purchase transactions involving his FOID card. C.A.G.E. Unit officers had information on 2 previous recoveries of firearms purchased in his name as well. Armed with this information, C.A.G.E. Team officers arrived at offender's residence where he provided officers with his Illinois FOID card. Officers requested to see the firearms he had purchased and notified him if he did not have these, to provide them with the documentation of the sale, transfer, or theft of said firearms as required by the Illinois Firearm Owners Identification Act. This offender could not provide the firearms nor proper documentation and was taken into custody. He confided to the officer that an addiction to narcotics, specifically crack cocaine and heroin, led to the purchase of the above listed firearms for a subject nicknamed "Mellow," in exchange for narcotics. Knowing that "Mellow" was a convicted felon and could not legally purchase firearms, did not stop him from driving to the gun shop with "Mellow" and his instructions on what weapons to purchase. The offender admitted ignoring the prominently printed warning in the shop which stated: "Warning: You are not the actual buyer if you are acquiring the firearm(s) on behalf of another person. If you are not the actual buyer, the dealer cannot transfer the firearm(s) to you." The offender stated that at no time did "Mellow" show proof that he could purchase firearms by providing an Illinois FOID card. Both were arrested on felony charges.

### Other Weapons Gun Trafficked by Offender:

C.A.I., .45 Caliber	Kel Tec, 9mm
Springfield, .45 Caliber	Ruger, 9mm Caliber
Astra, .40 Caliber	

# Trafficked Guns in Chicago: Case Studies



## Case Number 4

**Time To Crime:** 166 Days

**Make:** FEG

**Type:** Semi-Automatic Pistol

**Model:** PA63

**Caliber:** 9mm

**Location:** Chicago, Illinois

**Crime:** Gunrunning

**Links:** Traced Gun back to Gunrunner

**Suspects:** Arrested

**Gang Affiliation:** None

**Outcome:** Suspect Charged and Sentenced

**Penalty:** Prosecuted and Convicted.  
Twenty-four Months Conditional  
Discharge.

## Biography of the Gun Trace

Chicago Police Officers conducting a traffic stop on the West Side of Chicago arrested an offender for Unlawful Use of Weapon, after the officers recovered a weapon from the vehicle. A firearms trace was conducted on the weapon which revealed the firearm was purchased by an 84 year old male known as "Mr. C." Mr. C. purchased this firearm as part of a multiple weapon purchase from an Illinois gun shop. After learning this information officers were able to discover that Mr. C. had 22 separate weapons purchase transaction activations on his FOID cards. Officers submitted the activations to the Chicago office of the ATF to request the Firearms Transaction Record Forms. With this information, officers were able to determine that 40 firearms were purchased by Mr. C. through multiple sales. Of these 40 firearms, 32 are handguns that were released to the streets, of which was an FEG Pistol that was recovered. As these guns are recovered, the recovery locations have offered substantial evidence that Mr. C. supplied several weapons that ended up in the hands of gangsters operating on the West Side of Chicago.

### Other Weapons Gun Trafficked by Offender:

Winchester, Model 74, .22cal Rifle

Franchi, Model 48AC, .20ga Shotgun

Winchester, Model 59, 12ga Shotgun

Remington, Model 870, 410ga. Shotgun

Winchester, Model 1400, 20ga Shotgun

Auto Ord., Model 1911, .45ca1 Pistol

Browning, Model Grade 1, .22cal. Revolver

Remington, Model 870, 12ga. Shotgun

Browning, Model HiPower, 9mm Pistol

Italy, Model Derringer, .38Caliber Revolver

Davis, Model D38, .38Caliber. Revolver

Davis, Model DM22, .22Caliber Revolver

Smith and Wesson, Model 645, .45ca1. Pistol



# Trafficked Guns in Chicago: Case Studies



## Case Number 5

**Time To Crime:** 303 Days

**Make:** Cobra

**Type:** Semi-Automatic Pistol

**Model:** Patriot

**Caliber:** 9mm

**Location:** Chicago, Illinois

**Crime:** Gunrunning

**Links:** Traced Gun back to Gunrunner

**Suspects:** Arrested

**Gang Affiliation:** Denied

**Outcome:** Suspect Charged and Sentenced

**Penalty:** Two Years Probation

## Biography of the Gun Trace

**J**uvenile crime is an important concern for the Department. Gunrunning that puts guns in the hands of juveniles will be aggressively pursued. In a case occurring in September 2005, Chicago Police Officers made an arrest for Unlawful Use of a Weapon, when they recovered a 9MM Pistol from a 14 year old gang member. A firearm trace of this weapon revealed that the firearm was purchased in 2004 at an Illinois gun shop by another subject who had purchased an additional weapon that was recovered from a convicted convicted felon on a previous arrest. Trace history also revealed that the gunrunner had six potential weapon purchase transactions involving two FOID cards. The subject stated that the reason for the purchasing multiple firearms was because a gambling debt of roughly \$500 to \$600 was owed to a convicted felon who offered to erase this debt if he would purchase firearms for him. All offenders were arrested and charged.

### Other Weapons Gun Trafficked by Offender:

2 Kel Tec, 9MM Pistols

Taurus, 9MM Pistol

Jennings, 380 Caliber Pistol

Smith & Wesson, 9MM Pistol

Tangfoglio, 380 Caliber Pistol

## Firearm Statistics

### 2006 Firearm Recoveries by Type

Type	Total
Semi-Automatic	5050
Revolver	5,132
Rifle	1,423
Shotgun	1,507
Fully Automatic Assault Weapon	311
Other	254
Total	13,677

### 2006 Homicides by Firearm

Total Murders	Firearm Related Murders	Percentage
468	384	82.05%



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