Interstate Gun Trafficking Task Force (IGTTF)

Meeting Minutes
September 15, 2010

Opening:

The fifth meeting of the Interstate Gun Trafficking Task Force was called to order at approximately 2:15 p.m., on September 15, 2010 by Chairman Ernest Brown, Chicago Police Department.

A. Roll Call—Chairman Ernest Brown, Chicago Police Department

Members Present:

State Senator Kirk Dillard (via teleconference)
Chief Kevin O’Connell, Attorney General’s (AG) Office for Deputy AG Michael Hood
Cook County Assistant State’s Attorney Tom Mahoney
Illinois State Police First Deputy Director Luis Tigera
Chicago Police Department Deputy Superintendent Ernest Brown
Collinsville Police Chief Scott Williams

B. Vote to adopt August 18, 2010 meeting minutes. A motion to adopt the minutes was made by FDD Luis Tigera and seconded by ASA Tom Mahoney. All members present concurred and the minutes were adopted with one change, Chief Kevin O’Connell’s name was misspelled.

C. Core Recommendations of the IGTTF – Open Discussion

Chairman Brown suggested the task force focus on identifying four or five categories to make recommendations under to the General Assembly and the Governor’s Office in the final report due December 31, 2010.

The first category recommended was legislative initiatives. Under this category focus would be placed on composing legislation to amend the current eavesdropping law to include an exemption for officers doing gun investigations. Chairman Brown
recommended the Chicago Police Department and the Illinois State Police pursue this legislation. Chief O’Connell recommended the legislation be broken down into categories and to formulate a sub-committee. FDD Tigera indicated State’s Attorney Birkett had formed a sub-committee and was working on composing legislation. Chairman Brown also stated we should pursue the suspension of license plates with gun trafficking violations. Universal background checks and the gun show loophole should also be included. Another idea was to form legislation to require all police departments in the state of Illinois to trace recovered firearms. Chairman Brown mentioned the idea of linking compliance to grant money to ensure cooperation. A letter would also be sent from either the IACP or the Illinois Sheriff’s Association encouraging compliance and participation. Ms. Ashley Vanness of the Chicago Mayor’s Office recommended legislation that would require the reporting all lost and stolen firearms to law enforcement. Chief Scott Williams recommended composing legislation on mandatory sentencing laws for gun trafficking offenders. Ms. Vanness indicated the Aggravated Unlawful Use of a Weapon statute changed January 1, 2010 requiring a mandatory one to three years incarceration and making it a nonprobationable offense.

The second category recommended and agreed upon was community education/public relations. Chairman Brown recommended definitely including the advertising campaign presented at meeting a few months ago by Ms. Janet Webber. ASA Mahoney felt a public service announcement (PSA) would also be effective, but somewhat costly. ASA Mahoney will provide the information used for the Project Safe Neighborhoods Campaign in Chicago. ISP Commander Terry Lemming felt we may be able to have the PSAs paid for through donations from corporate partners. Chairman Brown mentioned the need to ensure we included federal law enforcement on this category. Ms. Vanness reminded the task force to be sure to engage outside partnerships when dealing with the community outreach and public relations portion. Chairman Brown also felt we should focus on doing something with school age children, since gun crimes in this age group are on the rise. Chairman Brown also revisited the statement made by Mr. Todd Vandermyde of the NRA at a recent IGTTF meeting that we need to form collaborative relationships with others in the gun/crime prevention industry. Chairman Brown felt if we partnered with others, it needed to be a mutually beneficial relationship.

The third category identified was enforcement. FDD Tigera and Chairman Brown proposed the formation of three gun task forces in the state. The task forces would be made up of the City of Chicago (expanding the CAGE Unit), surrounding metro-area of Chicago (collar counties) and the Metro-East near St. Louis. Chief Williams expressed he thought the concept was sound; however, he was concerned on how we would fund the idea, and would the officers assigned be full-time to the task force or assigned on a part-time basis? The IGTTF also needs to ensure the ATF/US Marshals are willing to deputize the additional people needed to staff the task forces. FDD Tigera also felt an intelligence piece needed to be included in the enforcement category. FDD Tigera stated it would be beneficial to hold monthly intelligence sharing meetings. ISP Chief of Staff Jessica Trame recommended CPIC, STIC and the ATF/US Marshals working collaboratively to produce a monthly newsletter on intelligence.
The fourth and final category agreed upon was training. Chairman Brown felt the CPD Trap training class would be a great tool to train patrol officers on hidden compartments. Search warrant, prosecution and trafficking recognition training would also be beneficial. COS Trame recommended CPD and the ISP working collaboratively with the local Mobile Training Units to secure some of the needed training classes.

D. Next Meeting/Agenda

Chairman Brown proposed the next meeting be held on October 13, 2010 at 2 p.m., at the same locations. All members present concurred. The ISP staff will compose an IGTTF Report of Findings draft document with the four core recommendation categories that will eventually be sent to the Governor’s Office and the General Assembly. This document will be reviewed by the membership at the October 13, 2010 meeting.

E. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by ASA Mahoney and seconded by Chief O’Connell and FDD Tigera, all members present concurred. The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:10 p.m.