

City of Philadelphia



Council of the City of Philadelphia
Office of the Chief Clerk
Room 402, City Hall
Philadelphia

(Resolution No. 020656)

RESOLUTION

Authorizing City Council's Committee on Public Safety to hold public hearings on the overall effectiveness of state-mandated ballistic fingerprinting as a tool in investigating crimes committed with firearms and the cost of a ballistic fingerprinting technology system and the sharing and retention of data collected by the system.

WHEREAS, Ballistic fingerprinting is a law enforcement tool that requires gun manufacturers to supply bullet samples from handguns and rifles at their time of sale and enter all pertinent information about the bullet sample and the firearm it was discharged from into a statewide database; and

WHEREAS, A statewide ballistic fingerprinting system would allow investigators who have found shell casings or other ballistic evidence at a crime scene to enter data about the bullet's markings into the database and quickly retrieve information about the firearm from which the bullet was fired; and

WHEREAS, Ballistic information contained in a statewide ballistic database could lead investigators to the firearm's owner and possibly the perpetrator of violent crimes; and

WHEREAS, A statewide ballistic fingerprinting system could be instrumental in solving future crimes involving firearms in the state of Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, Maryland and New York have recently enacted legislation requiring gun makers to supply bullet samples from handguns and rifles at their time of sale and to enter relevant ballistic information in a statewide ballistic database; and

WHEREAS, In a cooperative agreement between the FBI, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and several local police departments, a project called NIBIN is already using ballistic fingerprinting techniques. NIBIN, or National Integrated Ballistic Information Network, involves computerized sharing of crime data on guns and ammunition; and

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WHEREAS, The NIBIN system has enabled law enforcement agencies to discover links when the same firearm is used in multiple shooting crimes, even in different states; now therefore

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, That the Committee on Public Safety is hereby authorized to hold hearings on the effectiveness of ballistic fingerprinting as a tool in investigating crimes committed with firearms.

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CERTIFICATION: This is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution, Adopted by the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the twenty-fourth of October, 2002.

Anna C. Verna
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Marie B. Hauser
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmembers Clarke and Ortiz

Sponsored by: Councilmembers Clarke, Ortiz, Reynolds Brown, Miller, Goode, Tasco, DiCicco, Cohen, Nutter, O'Neill and Rizzo