

NIBIN and eTrace Resolution

Submitted by: Firearms Committee and Police Investigative Operations Committee

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), between 2019 and 2020 the firearm homicide rate increased by 35%. Despite these numbers significantly increasing, there is a tremendous gap between recovered firearms and those firearms submitted into the United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) or eTrace systems, which provide vital investigative leads; and

WHEREAS, according to the Gun Violence Archive (GVA), between 2014 and 2020 mass shootings have increased by 56% and teens (aged 12-17) killed or injured by firearms increased by 44%; and

WHEREAS, ATF's eTrace system provides the origin for recovered and traced firearms. The information from eTrace provides the first lead in determining how a firearm went from legal commerce to a crime scene. It also serves to identify illegal firearms trafficking patterns and the crimes associated with involved firearm, i.e., straw purchasing; and

WHEREAS, ATF's NIBIN has been successfully generating leads for Investigators tasked with the investigation of violent crimes involving firearms. NIBIN provides ballistic links between crimes that were otherwise unknown; and

WHEREAS, it is beneficial for law enforcement agencies to have a written firearm policy that fully exploits the evidentiary intelligence contained on and inside a firearm; and

WHEREAS, smaller departments, or those with limited resources, should work with ATF and larger or regional law enforcement agencies to ensure comprehensive collection and submission into NIBIN and eTrace; and

WHEREAS, the International Association of Chiefs of Police has consistently supported both NIBIN and eTrace; and

WHEREAS, the following leading practices would increase the solvability rate of violent firearm crime for agencies worldwide:

- Establish a firearm policy that promotes comprehensive submission of all firearms into eTrace.
- Establish a firearm policy that promotes comprehensive submission of all firearms and suitable recovered ballistics into NIBIN.
- Establish a definitive process to receive, distribute (as needed), and follow up on NIBIN and eTrace results that are provided by ATF or other forensic institutions as necessary. This process

should ensure that the assigned detectives/investigators, which is often different than the individual who submitted the evidence and received the issued results, receive the critical leads.

- Establish processes to ensure that firearms and ballistic evidence are processed through NIBIN and eTrace in a timely manner. Delays on these critical processes can diminish the value of the information gained and negatively impact the solvability of investigations; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the International Association of Chiefs of Police recognize that addressing these issues increases the solvability of violent firearm crime, helps stem the flow of illegal crime guns and promotes the flow of critical intelligence.

jurisdictional policies, yet IACP holds that later costs of insurance or litigation will likely exceed those assumed financial barriers; and

WHEREAS, IACP recognizes the need to focus and standardize public safety organizations' core hiring practices for demonstrable and repeatable performance outcomes; Now, therefore, be it,

RESOLVED, that the IACP encourages the maintenance of and/or expansion to the core hiring standards as listed, to Maintain and Mature the Quality of the Policing Profession through Core, Evidence-Based Hiring Practices.

Support of Electronic Warrants in the Fight Against Impaired Driving

Submitted by: Roadway Safety Committee



WHEREAS, impaired driving has a profound impact on society and public safety in terms of grievous injuries, senseless death, and significant property damage; and with poly-substance impaired driving fatal crashes increasing, and

WHEREAS, the growing number of states and countries legalizing and/or decriminalizing cannabis, psychedelics, other impairing substances and the poly-substance abuse crisis has given rise to increased concerns related to the appropriate detection, investigation, prosecution, and adjudication of drug-impaired driving, and

WHEREAS, the inability to obtain a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) test result or evidence of drug use, (especially in cases of refusal) effectively impedes or negates an officers' ability to gather crucial and intensely time-sensitive evidence in the form of blood or other bodily fluids, and

WHEREAS, the establishment and implementation of electronic warrant (eWarrant) programs to compel blood draws or samples of other bodily fluids have proven timely and successful in several jurisdictions (Responsibility.org, A Guide to Implementing Electronic Warrants, 2018; and NHTSA, Practices for Implementing Expedited Search Warrant Programs for Obtaining Evidence From Impaired Drivers, 2021), utilizing a variety of technology based systems to quickly and accurately obtain evidence in the violent crime of impaired driving, and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the technology available to law enforcement agencies, and research by NHTSA, Responsibility.org and the Justice Management Institute clearly identifies a spectrum of eWarrant systems that can assist jurisdictions in their fight against impaired driving; including recommended legislative framework, planning and design, partner engagement, funding, policy and operations, and metrics to assess goals, and

RESOLVED, that the IACP supports the development, implementation, and legislative engagement of eWarrant systems by law enforcement agencies and prosecutors to assist in timely collection of evidence to enhance prosecution of impaired driving cases, and ultimately assist in the detection and prevention of injury and death on our nation's roadways.

The Public Safety and Homeland Security Needs for Retro-Reflective Front and Rear License Plates with Validation Stickers

Submitted by: Highway Safety Committee
2023 Update

WHEREAS, heightened homeland security concerns emphasize the need for fast and reliable identification of vehicles by law enforcement officers and citizens alike, which is extremely important for law enforcement officers who steadfastly patrol the more than 25 million miles of highways and roads globally; and

WHEREAS, motor vehicles are used in the majority of all serious crimes committed in the United States and the quick discovery of such vehicles can help solve these crimes; and

WHEREAS, in addition to improving safety, traffic enforcement activities have proven to be invaluable in the detection and apprehension of individuals involved in terrorist and/or criminal activities; all means of initial identification, including retro-reflective front and rear license plates, are essential; and

WHEREAS, retro-reflective front and rear license plates are essential in the quick and accurate identification of motor vehicles traveling toward or away from a law enforcement officer, even at highway speeds, whether the officer is using Automated License Plate Reader technology or reliant on personal observance; and

WHEREAS, retro-reflective front and rear license plates serve as a significant safety device, warning motorists of the presence of vehicles that are disabled or that otherwise lack sufficient headlights or taillights and allowing those vehicles to be observed at a safe distance and in a timely manner; and

WHEREAS, fully reflective validation tabs displaying month and year attached to the license plate provides law enforcement officers with an instant recognition system of valid vehicle registration; and

WHEREAS, an effort to repeal the requirement for front license plates and/or validation tabs are sometimes made in response to budgetary or other non-safety centric considerations; and

WHEREAS, if such efforts are successful, they would have a serious and negative effect on the ability of law enforcement officers to effectively identify vehicles or invalid vehicle registrations and to initiate reasonable suspicion vehicle stops; and

WHEREAS, it is important to keep license plates legible and to maintain their retro-reflectivity because they are relied upon by law enforcement and citizens alike for public and traffic safety. Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) recognizes that the efficient and reliable identification of vehicles is a critical element of national, state and local safety and security, supports the issuance of retro-reflective front *and* rear license plates with clearly identifiable registration numbers and states of registration, and urges issuance of new plates prior to retro-reflective degradation and as otherwise required to maintain effective vehicle identification; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the IACP supports the issuance of retro-reflective validation tabs indicating the month and year for use on the license plates of all motor vehicles registered to operate on public highways and roadways; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the IACP supports the use of the License Plate Standard for the design and manufacture of license plates published by the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators.

In Support of Amendment to the Law Enforcement Officers Safety
Act (LEOSA) to Include Railroad Police as Qualified Law
Enforcement Officers

WHEREAS, railroad police officers have been respected members of the law enforcement community in the United States for over 150 years and are recognized as bona fide law enforcement officers in the United States; and

WHEREAS, railroad police officer's interstate law enforcement authority is derived from federal statute 49 USC 28101; and

WHEREAS, railroad police officers agents are responsible for the protection of
- (1) employees, passengers, or patrons of the rail carrier; (2) property, equipment, and facilities operated, or maintained by the rail carrier; (3) property moving in interstate or foreign commerce and (4) personnel, equipment, and material moving by rail that are vital to the national defense;
and

WHEREAS, railroad police officers are dedicated, highly trained certified law enforcement professionals who risk their lives in a variety of situations such as

criminal law enforcement, protection of the national defense, hazardous material releases, or terrorist attacks; and

WHEREAS, railroad police officers are routinely subjected to the same perils as their federal, state, and local law enforcement partners, which has throughout history resulted in their own injuries or deaths; and

WHEREAS, according to the Officer Down Memorial Page, Inc, more than 450 railroad police officers have been killed in the line of duty in the United States; be it

RESOLVED, the IACP recommends that members of U.S. Congress amend the Law Enforcement Officer Safety Act (LEOSA) to include railroad police officers.

Support for Stronger, More Effective Border Security

WHEREAS illegal immigration and border security issues directly impact the safety of communities around the world and effective national action is needed to meet this challenge; and,

WHEREAS stronger border security can help reduce crime, protect citizens, and disrupt the activities of organized crime syndicates and,

WHEREAS enhanced border security efforts can also help to identify and apprehend individuals who are engaged in criminal activities and prevent them from entering the country; and,

WHEREAS by controlling and managing the flow of people and goods across national boundaries, effective border security allows a nation to better monitor and regulate who can enter the country and what materials they are transporting; and

WHEREAS these controls help to prevent terrorists from entering a country and also prevents terrorists from obtaining materials or resources they need to carry out their plans; and,

WHEREAS the Terrorist Screening Center plays an integral role in identifying, detecting, monitoring, and preventing terrorists and other national security threat actors from entering the United States; and,

WHEREAS increased border security can help to reduce the flow of illegal goods such as drugs, weapons, and stolen goods across the border which, in turn, can help to reduce costs associated with these crimes, to include higher law enforcement costs and broader societal disruptions; and,

WHEREAS stronger border security can help reduce crime, protect citizens, and disrupt the activities and reduce the illicit proceeds gained by organized crime syndicates and,

WHEREAS stronger border security efforts can help to protect the rights of citizens and immigrants. Increased security can help to ensure that immigrants are not being exploited, as well as ensure that immigrants who are applying for visas and other forms of legal documentation are being treated fairly; now therefore be it,

RESOLVED that the International Association of Chiefs of Police firmly believes that effective border security must play a critical role in all governments' national security plan; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the International Association of Chiefs of Police firmly believes that, in the strong interest of homeland security and the welfare of the national populace, particularly as it applies to the scourge of organized human and drug trafficking, that immigration policy on all of its territorial borders needs to be enforced in conformance with the existing law and those agencies so tasked need to be supported financially and logistically to effectively carry out this policy; and be it **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the International Association of Chiefs of Police calls on the leaders of all nations to continue to invest in the necessary resources and personnel to strengthen border control and to fund other initiatives that can help secure national borders, including by engaging in robust information sharing with

entities such as the Terrorist Screening Center; and be it,

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the International Association of Chiefs of Police also urges all governments to focus on providing a safe and secure environment for all individuals regardless of race, ethnicity, or immigration status.