



Office of the Mayor

Stephanie A. Miner, Mayor

Press Release

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Mayor Stephanie A. Miner and Syracuse Police Chief Frank Fowler to Join New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg in Albany Tuesday to Advocate for Microstamping Legislation

Syracuse, NY- Mayor Stephanie A. Miner and Syracuse Police Chief Frank Fowler will be in Albany Tuesday to join with New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, other New York State mayors and police chiefs in asking the New York State Senate to pass a gun measure that adopts new technology to help police trace guns used in crimes. Mayor Miner and Chief Fowler are backing a measure that would require semiautomatic pistols sold in New York State to include an imprint known as a “microstamp” of the gun’s serial number on the casing of each bullet fired.

The New York State Assembly passed the measure earlier this year and the legislation is now pending in the Senate.

“Criminals don’t often leave guns at the scene of crimes, but they do leave casings,” said Mayor Miner. “We need to take advantage of new technology that would give law enforcement a more accurate method for tracking down the sources of guns used in crimes in Syracuse and across the state.”

Current ballistics technology used by law enforcement to investigate gun crimes is limited in its ability to identify the source of the gun when only shell casings are available at a crime scene. Microstamping would give police a new tool for tracking down the sources of guns in cases that might otherwise go unsolved.

“Microstamping will serve as a tremendous tool to law enforcement to assist in bringing closure to countless unsolved shooting and shots fired cases,” said Chief Fowler. “It is only through effective enforcement that these acts will be encouraged to stop.”

The Senate bill has received the support of 100 New York State mayors and 83 police departments and law enforcement organizations, including the New York State Association of Chiefs of Police and the New York State Law Enforcement Council.

“I’m hoping the Senate gives the state’s law enforcement community this new tool, which is critical for tracking down gun offenders and for keeping guns out of the hands of criminals,” said Mayor Miner.

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