

## **WDBO Local News**

### **OPD works with FDLE and ATF to reduce gun crime**

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The Orlando Police Department has teamed up with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) to launch an innovative program that will reduce the amount of pending firearm cases from their database.

The NIBIN, National Integrated Ballistic Information Network, system discovers links between crimes that are not known to be related and helps connect suspects to recovered firearms. Through this program, State and local agencies will be able to acquire information that they wouldn't have had access to, as well as have the means to share information with other jurisdictions. Orlando has been using this system since 2000, however the NIBIN software has been updated and the current machines are getting old. This is allowing the agencies to revamp their initiative and how they are using the software.

To use NIBIN, technicians scan images of bullets and casings in to a NIBIN unit and then run a search against evidence previously entered from other crime scenes. Firearm examiners then compare the search results to original evidence to confirm a "hit".

When thinking about what Orlando could do in order to impact violent crime in Orlando and subsequent regions, ATF, OPD as well as FDLE agents decided to look at existing available equipment and technology as well as what training had already been implemented. Currently, 70% of homicides in Orlando are from gun crime.

The Orlando region currently has 1200 cases in their backlog and on average 300 new cases come in a month from all agencies. FDLE's Nanette Rudolph says that log will take two years to clear.

OPD, FDLE and ATF are confident that the pilot program will be a local success and have plans to expand regionally and then state-wide. This program has been a success in large cities such as Boston and Los Angeles, which have been using NIBIN since the late 90's.