

# Gun's Odd Path: Cop To School To Streets

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A Hartford police officer's service weapon -- missing for more than three months -- was taken to Bloomfield High School by her son and ended up in the hands of another student before being recovered this weekend after a report of shots fired on a city street, authorities say.

Hartford police could not say on Tuesday exactly what had happened with the .45-caliber, semiautomatic handgun since it was reported missing in early June -- or if anyone had been shot with it.

"Not that I'm aware of," police department spokeswoman Nancy Mulroy said when asked of that possibility. "That will be a part of the ongoing investigation."

The gun's journey started around Memorial Day, when police Officer Mirella Gentry, 30, of Bloomfield, left the weapon in her bedroom while she and her husband vacationed for six days in Jamaica, court records show.

Gentry's 15-year-old son allegedly took the gun and a loaded clip from an unlocked plastic box, and -- on May 31 -- brought it with him to Bloomfield High School.

The teenager told police he showed the gun to at least one student and left it in his school locker, which was unlocked, court records show. The name of Gentry's son is not being published because of his age.

Later on the same day, the teenager told police that another Bloomfield High student ended up with the gun.

According to court records, Gentry's son said Jonathan Weaver, now 18, pointed the gun at him, but didn't say how Weaver got it.

Weaver later told authorities that Gentry's son gave him the weapon and the clip, which he slid into the gun, court records show. When asked its whereabouts, Weaver answered "the projects."

"Jonathan reported this clip had hollow point bullets in it at the time he accepted it," court records say.

When Gentry returned home from Jamaica on June 2, court records say, she reported her gun missing to the Bloomfield Police Department.

Gentry, who became a full-time Hartford police officer in June 2005, was arrested and charged with risk of injury to a minor. The charge was reduced on Sept. 7, when Gentry pleaded no contest to a new charge of improperly storing a loaded

firearm with respect to minors, court records show.

She was ordered to pay a \$100 fine.

“The case was disposed of in an appropriate manner,” said Salvatore Bonanno, the defense attorney for Gentry.

Gentry's son is scheduled to appear in gun court on Sept. 29. In the meantime, he was ordered to wear an electronic bracelet and placed under house arrest when he is not attending school or visiting his attorney, court records show.

Court records pertaining to Weaver's case were not made public Tuesday.

Bloomfield police declined to release any names, but said two teenagers faced charges of theft of a firearm and possession of a firearm on school grounds in connection with the high school incident.

Both Gentry's son and Weaver have been expelled from Bloomfield High School, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Robert Buganski said Tuesday.

Superintendent of Schools David Title said a letter was sent home to parents informing them that a gun had been in the high school for a short time on June 2. Title could not recall whether the letter told parents that the gun was loaded.

“We saw this as a freak, isolated incident. We didn't see this as a time for metal detectors,” Title said.

On Saturday, about 10:45 p.m., the gun finally turned up.

Hartford officers responding to a report of a gun fired in the area of 1921 Orange St. came upon Dyshawn Figueroa, 26, of New Britain, running away, police said. Once he was caught, police said, they found Gentry's gun in Figueroa's possession.

Police alleged Tuesday that Figueroa fired the gun at least once on Orange Street.

He was arrested Saturday and accused of stealing a firearm. He also faces narcotics charges.