



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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October 29, 2007

Mr. James Wallace
Executive Director
Gun Owners' Action League
37 Pierce St.
P.O. Box 567
Northboro, MA 01532

Dear Mr. Wallace:

Your letter to Governor Patrick concerning some of your members' issues with the state's firearms licensing system has been referred to me for response.

As GOAL and its members are aware, applications for firearm identification cards and licenses to carry, including license renewals, have markedly increased in 2007. This increase in licensing activity is reflected in statistics collected by the Massachusetts Criminal History Systems Board (CHSB) relative to applications processed via the Massachusetts Instant Record Check System. For instance, in June 2006 there were 4,217 licenses submitted to CHSB, whereas, in June 2007 there were 7,727 licenses submitted, over an 80% increase.

Despite the significant increase in the number of license applications being processed by the local licensing authorities in 2007, the vast majority of licensing authorities are timely processing the applications. Of the 1913 license applications the CHSB received from local licensing authorities for processing from September 3 to

Mr. James Wallace
October 29, 2007
Page 2

September 7, 2007, for example, only 48 (2.5%) were outside the 40-day statutory timeframe processing an application.

While CHSB has been working and continues to work with the local police departments to make sure they comply with the 40-day timeframe, CHSB is handling its piece of the transaction in a timely manner. Average processing time for CHSB between July 2006 and August 2007 was under 5 days.

We understand the frustration of GOAL members dealing with their local police departments in instances in which licensees have been unsuccessful in their attempts to timely renew their licenses. Barry LaCroix, Executive Director of the Criminal History Systems Board, can be reached at (617) 660-4600, and would be happy to assist any license holders who are concerned about the possibility of their becoming in violation of the Commonwealth's firearms laws for no fault of their own.

Sincerely,



Gregory I. Massing
General Counsel