



Gun Owners' Action League

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January 16, 2008

The Honorable Deval Patrick
Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
State House
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor,

Over the past few months, we have done our best to keep you informed of how poorly the Commonwealth treats the citizens that apply for firearms licenses. Despite spending millions of dollars for an unauthorized system, the service has not been impressive. As a matter of fact, the issuance process is often very slow, as evidenced by the enclosed letters.

In the first letter, Mr. Goyette talks about his first renewal of his license to carry a firearm. He also was put off when attempting to make his appointment. He “applied” on October 30th, but did not receive his firearms license until December 29th, two months later.

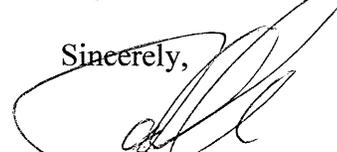
In the second letter, Mr. Forgues shows us how he tried to begin his renewal process three months before his birthday, knowing that the process takes a long time. He was put off for five weeks before he was actually allowed to “apply.” Seven weeks after his appointment, he finally received his license.

We have included a copy of a timeline from Mr. Johnson that was supposedly mailed to you directly, detailing how his license renewal, which began in early May 2007, was actually completed in early September, four months later.

Finally, we enclose a letter from Mr. Dwyer, who applied in early November, and seven weeks later, has still not received his license.

Governor, why is the state allowing the licensing agents of the Commonwealth to delay the implementation of people’s rights in this fashion? We urge you to instruct the Executive Office of Public Safety to issue firm guidelines as to how citizens should be treated before, during, and after the renewal process.

Sincerely,



James L. Wallace
Executive Director

Cc: The Honorable Therese Murray, Senate President
The Honorable Richard Tisei, Senate Minority Leader
The Honorable Salvatore F. DiMasi, Speaker of the House
The Honorable Brad Jones, House Minority Leader
EOPS General Counsel Gregory Massing
The Honorable James Timilty, Chairman, Committee on Public Safety & Homeland Security
The Honorable Michael Costello, Chairman, Committee on Public Safety & Homeland Security

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 01, 2008 2:37 PM
To: jimwallace@goal.org
Subject: Licensing delay

I was told by a few people that I should contact you and GOAL regarding the delay I've experienced in renewing my LTC.

I live in [REDACTED], MA. and this is my first renewal. My original license was the old style laminated version. It expired on December 22nd 07 and I didn't receive my new license until a week after the old one expired despite numerous calls to the local police here after I had to wait a maximum of 6 weeks from my initial renewal appointment before they'd check anything.

I originally called to make my appointment last summer because I'd heard of delays. The earliest I was allowed in was October 30th. The woman who handled my appointment was polite and helpful and I was told that I should get the new license in 3 to 6 weeks, but to wait until 6 weeks were up before calling them.

After 5 weeks of waiting I found out I could call the CHSB and get a status on whether or not my LTC was ok' d so I did. They said it had already been printed and mailed to the [REDACTED] PD. After 6 weeks were up, I called the [REDACTED] police and spoke with a man in the licensing department. I got a bit of a run around at first and told him I called the CHSB and found out my LTC was already sent to them. I found that to actually be a bad move because I was politely scolded for calling the CHSB and was told the police department issued the license and I could only call them. The officer then checked on my license and said it was indeed there but they had to wait for fingerprints to come back.

I waited another week and called back. This time I spoke with the woman who handled my appointment and she was very helpful. She explained that because I had the old style license that they had to wait for my fingerprints to match up before they could get the ok to mail me my new license. She also said that she was going to fax my prints again and if she didn't hear from them in a few days she'd be contacting them directly.

Yet another week passed and my LTC was now expired. I called 2 days after Christmas and spoke with a different man in the licensing department. When I told him how long it had been he said I should have received it by now and he was going to check on it and call me back. When he called back he said my license was ok and it was mailed the day before (12/26). I finally received it on 12/29 and noticed it had a postage date stamping of 12/28.

I'm thankful I finally received it but went through some stress while waiting. A lawyer that posts on Northeastshooters.com that I talk with now and then originally helped me obtain a copy of my records. I have a few blemishes on my juvenile and adult record from days of a misspent youth, but I'm guessing it was nothing to disqualify me from renewal. I'm not sure if because I have a record with minor offenses that it took longer than most people I know who have no record, all I know is that I'm glad the process is over. I was worried I'd be denied especially after an elderly Fairhaven man was denied for having a

theft conviction at age 9 and had to go through hell to get his LTC back.

Again... I'm e mailing this because friends of mine have told me GOAL should be aware of licensing delays. Whether the _____ department purposely waited for my old LTC to expire before my new one was sent, or put off sending because I called the CHSB, I don't know. The excuse of waiting for fingerprint records to clear could be true, but if that's the case then its causing delays in the system.

Thank you for all you do for Massachusetts gun owners,

Ray Goyette

Hello Again GOAL & Nancy,

I finally received my Restricted to "sporting" LTC Class A from the city ~f today.
It was a new application.

In case you need anymore fuel for the growing number of complaints regarding the Mass application process or in particular.

I called 9/27/07 to schedule the Earliest Appt at the permit office with Det. Nadja Peace.

She scheduled me come in to apply on 11/12/07, the earliest date she would allow. She would NOT let me drop off a filled out application myself and she did not use the official form when she did allow me to apply.

Check Cashed: 12/11/07

Received Permit Jan 3rd.

so from the actual application time it took more than 7 weeks. While not ridiculous from what I have seen, it still is a long time when compounded by crazy application scheduling process.

Feel free to use my story if need be and feel free to contact me for more info. I have the documents showing when I applied and received the permit, but not the initial phone call to schedule the appointment.

-Jesse Forgues

Main Identity

From:
To: <staff@goal.org>
Sent: Saturday, December 08, 2007 6:48 PM
Subject: Licensing stories

A copy of this was sent to Governor Patrick as well.

This is the story of getting my firearm license.

5/08/2007 approximately 10:00 – called station Sergeant O'Reilly not in, left message
 5/15/2007 approximately 10:00 – called station Sergeant O'Reilly not in, asked when he would be in told that he works 16:00 - 00:00 shift
 5/15/2007 approximately 16:30 – called station Sergeant O'Reilly not in, told would be in at 17:00
 5/15/2007 approximately 17:15 – called station Sergeant O'Reilly not in
 5/17/2007 approximately 16:30 – called station Sergeant O'Reilly not in today left message
 5/19/2007 approximately 16:30 – called station Sergeant O'Reilly not in today left message
 5/23/2007 approximately 18:00 – called station Sergeant O'Reilly not in today
 6/01/2007 approximately 17:30 – called station Sergeant O'Reilly in, talked to him got information on what I need to bring. Check for \$100, 2 letters, proof of residency
 6/15/2007 approximately 17:22 – called station Sergeant O'Reilly stepped out should be back within an hour
 6/15/2007 approximately 18:20 – called station talked to Sergeant O'Reilly they are three people short tonight so cannot do today. Call back Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday next week.
 6/18/2007 approximately 18:00 – called station talked to Sergeant O'Reilly working front desk tonight so not available. Call back Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday.
 6/19/2007 approximately 18:00 – called station talked to Sergeant O'Reilly 4 car accident on 138. Call back between 19:00 and 19:30. Is there Wednesday and Thursday as well.
 6/19/2007 approximately 19:20 – called station Sergeant O'Reilly not in
 6/19/2007 approximately 20:40 – called station talked to Sergeant O'Reilly still busy, couldn't do until after 21:30, tomorrow is better. Will try again tomorrow.
 6/20/2007 approximately 17:45 – called station talked to Sergeant O'Reilly free. Renewed license
 8/10/2007 approximately 17:45 – called station to get status on license, been more than 40 days, Sergeant O'Reilly not in, will be in Sunday
 8/14/2007 approximately 18:45 – called station, Sergeant O'Reilly not in station, left voice mail.
 8/14/2007 approximately 19:45 – Sergeant O'Reilly returned call, left message. He was on vacation for 2 weeks in July so process was delayed. Permit is approved should receive in the mail in 1-2 weeks.

Received permit 9/6/2007 or 9/7/2007

As you can see, the local police department was not helpful. It took at least two calls just to find out that I was calling at the wrong time of the day. Also, you can see that many messages were left and only one was returned. You can also see that two reference letters are being required for a license renewal, something which I have heard is uncalled for and is not part of the law.

From my first attempted contact to the time I received my permit was four months. From the time I actually submitted the application and I received my license was over 60 days. This is definitely outside the time line set forth by the law. I also do not see how the Sergeant being out for a couple of weeks while my application should have been already returned is an issue.

My wife is also a permit holder and had a similar problem. She submitted her application on September

12/11/2007

12 and did not receive her permit until November 30. It took her a few tries just to get in to submit her application. Knowing the requirements, she avoided having to gather those so she only needed to get in contact with the Sergeant once.

We have both had licenses for almost ten years and this is our second renewal. In the process of getting our initial licenses and going through a renewal, we did not have these difficulties. While our initial applications were with a different person, our renewals were through the same Sergeant. While the law clearly states that there is to be a forty day response that was clearly not the case, however there are no penalties if that window is missed.

Something needs to be done about the firearm licensing and renewal process

December 31, 2007

Attention:

Nancy Snow

GOAL

PO Box 567

Northboro, MA 01532

Dear Goal, My firearms renewal is taking an awfully long time. I went to my local Police Station on November 7, 2007 and was processed for the renewal. This included fingerprinting, picture taking and submitted payment. I was told the permit would be mailed withing four to six weeks and it has not. Actually, I received a letter from the State in July telling me to submit my renewal then, so I went to the station but the Dispatcher told me that if they processed it and sent it into the State it would only be sent back - he "said the State is rejecting any permits sent in before six weeks of the permits expiration". I am confused on several levels.

- 1. In 2003 the renewal only took two weeks. And since 2003 I have not had so much as a parking ticket so it would seem that the turnaround time would be short.**
- 2. The process now is completely computerized, so you would think the turnaround time would be quicker not longer than it was in 2003.**
- 3. If you buy a gun a NICS check by the store is done in less than ten minutes.**
- 4. I also hold a permit from another State and on the last renewal date (after I signed the renewal and sent it back) the new permit was mailed back to me within seven calendar days.**

I was going to go Deer Hunting this week (muzzle loading season) but was afraid of getting asked for my permit by a Police Officer or a Fish and Game Officer who might not be aware of the 90 day grace period and arrest me for possession of a firearm without a valid (permit) license. Then I would be facing a Judge and the added expense of a lawyer to correct a situation not of my own making.

I did call the station on December 20, 2007 and was told the permit had not been sent back to them by the State.

Because I applied before my expiration date, I have a grace period but that will run out on March 22,2007. Please ask the Governor to do what he can do to fix this problem for myself and other Sportsmen and Sportswomen.