



# Gun Owners' Action League

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November 16, 2007

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

Dear Governor Patrick,

Just ten days ago, we sent you more samples of letters from your constituents, who are requesting that you take action with regard to severe licensing delays. This is our fifth letter to you, documenting the problems with the MIRC system.

These letters from your constituents highlight that there are no consequences for government officials for failure to follow the law.

- For example, enclosed is a letter of a woman from Lynn who applied more than three and a half months ago for renewal of her firearms license.
- Also enclosed is a letter from a man who ran into problems just trying to set up his appointment to renew his license to carry a firearm.

If the Registry of Motor Vehicles can process digital licenses in just a couple of weeks, after a background check, why does it take the Commonwealth more than three months to *renew* a firearms license?

This blatant inefficiency, and the lack of consequences for government officials who follow the law, does not make your administration look good. The gun owners have been waiting for you to fix these problems. This is clearly a place where we need the state government to take a leadership role and force the local licensing authorities, who act as licensing agents for the Commonwealth, to comply with the law.

Also enclosed is a copy of a letter to the Inspector General regarding the city of Cambridge's policy of overcharging for firearms licenses.

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  
CHSB Director Barry LaCroix

**Main Identity**

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**From:**  
**To:** <staff@goal.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 08, 2007 5:12 PM  
**Subject:** Renewal Delay

Dear GOAL,

My firearms license renewal is an abomination. I had my appointment scheduled with the licensing officer today, November 8th, 1007, to process my renewal. The appointment was set several weeks ago by phone and there were even problems with the process of scheduling such.

I was specifically told by the \_\_\_\_\_ Police Department when dropping off my application in person, that I must drop off the completed application with my phone number and the Firearms Sergeant would then call me to make an appointment.

I never received a call.

So, I called the Firearms Sergeant and politely explained that I had dropped off my application more than a week earlier and that I hadn't heard anything about making an appointment.

The Firearms Sergeant told me that it was my responsibility to call HIM (despite my being specifically told NOT to call him, but to wait for his call.). He also told me that he doesn't call people with "blocks" on their phones.

Why this was relevant, I have no idea, for two reasons:

- 1) He told me moments earlier that he doesn't call the people to schedule appointments  
and
- 2) I don't now, nor have never have had a block on my phone.

It has now been 3-4 weeks since I applied in person.

Today, I showed up with money in hand at 4:20PM at the \_\_\_\_\_ Police Department for my scheduled appointment at 4:30PM with the Firearms

11/9/2007

Sergeant. When I went to the counter and indicated that I was there for the appointment, they went into the back room to find him.

After 3-4 minutes, they came back and told me that he was on vacation. This was despite that fact that we had a scheduled appointment.

There were 3 Officers standing there when I walked in the door. ALL 3 of them heard that I was there to see the Firearms Sergeant -- and they had to look for him for 3-4 minutes before announcing he was on vacation? My appointment was for 4:30PM on a Thursday afternoon. None of the Officers knew that the firearms Sergeant was on vacation, when he is the only one that handles these permits? It isn't like I came in on Monday morning at 9:00AM and no one could have known yet.

When I told them I had an appointment, they told me that they did not have access to his office or his appointment book and no one offered to be of any help whatsoever.

(For the record, when I originally got my permit in Wareham, Massachusetts, it took nearly a year to get the permit! They lost my application TWICE and I had to make repeated visits to the Police Station over the course of a year.)

Where are the lawsuits over this?

I have no arrest record, no reasons for permit denial, clean credit, am a Step 9 driver, etc. This is a very unfair abridgement of our laws.

Citizens of this State have every right to be up-in-arms over what is becoming a massive infringement of our liberties.

Because I applied before my expiration date, I have a grace period, but that will run out very soon. Please ask the Governor to do what he can to fix this badly broken and infuriating system.

I might also add, that the burden of this system should fall upon the criminals. I should not have to prove that I am NOT a criminal to possess a firearm.

The State should have the burden of proving that I am to deny me a permit.

As an example, the No-Fly list by the Department of Homeland Security does not have EVERY single person on it -- and then they selectively take you off when you apply for a "permit" to fly.

They put people on it that they have reasonable proof of issues.

Since I am not on any criminal lists, watch lists, wanted lists, etc. my name should not be on the list of criminals, etc. and I should be able to buy firearms without hassle -- just like I can buy an airline ticket without hassle now.

This system presumes everyone is guilty until proven otherwise. That is not only un-American -- it may not even be constitutional.

Where are the Lawyers? For that matter the \$100.00 seems out-of-line as well and serves in a confiscatory manner to disarm those that can't afford the fee.

How many lawful permit holders let their permits lapse because of this fee?

Please repair this system.

Sincerely,

**Main Identity**

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**From:**  
**To:** <staff@goal.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 15, 2007 7:30 PM  
**Subject:** Renewal Delay

Dear GOAL,

I am a member of North Shore Redmen Rifle and Pistol Club, Inc. who suggested via their newsletter that I write to you. My firearms license renewal is taking an awfully long time. I had an appointment with my licensing officer on 08/02/2007 to process my renewal. It has now been fourteen weeks since I applied. I called my police department two weeks ago and was told to expect a call from them in about another two weeks, as they were at that time contacting people to pick up the new license who had applied in July. It has been two weeks, and I have not heard from them. Because I applied before my expiration date, I have a grace period, but that will run out on 12/10/2007. Please ask the Governor to do what he can to see that the system gets moving again.

Thank you.

Sincerely,