



Gun Owners' Action League

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December 3, 2007

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

Dear Governor Patrick,

Once again, we are writing regarding a situation that demands prompt attention from your administration.

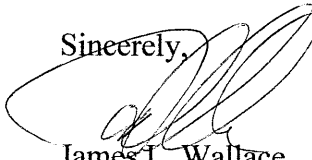
As you may know, Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 140, section 131, grants a “grace period” for expired licenses to carry a firearm of 90 days; if and only if the applicant applies before his birthday. Should a person’s license expire, they may be charged with a civil fine of \$500 to \$5000 if found in possession of firearms.

But what is an honest citizen to do if the licensing authority is unwilling to take their license renewal application? That is what is happening in the town of Braintree, where the designated licensing officer is on maternity leave from October through January. The police department has indicated that because the MIRC system is so complex, and they do not have anyone else trained to use it, no licenses can be processed until the officer returns from leave.

We do not know how many dozens of people are now in unlawful possession of their firearms because of the town’s inability to process licenses. We do know that these people can not go to target practice, can not hunt, or buy ammunition until they can get their licenses renewed.

We urge your administration take immediate action on this additional example of a licensing system that is broken.

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
Senator Michael W. Morrissey
Senator Brian A. Joyce
Representative Joseph R. Driscoll