



# Gun Owners' Action League

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November 19, 2007

Gregory W. Sullivan, Inspector General  
Office of the Inspector General  
ohn W. McCormack State Office Building  
One Ashburton Place, Room 1311

Boston, MA 02108

Dear Sir,

We are writing to request that you take prompt action to stop the City of Cambridge from overcharging for firearms licenses.

Enclosed please find a printout from the city of Cambridge Police Department website in which they indicate that they are overcharging for all licenses by \$20. They are charging \$120 for the Class A and Class B Licenses to Carry a Firearm, and \$45 for the Restricted Firearms Identification Card.

Those fees are set by statute at \$100 and \$25 respectively. Chapter 140, section 129B, paragraphs 9A and 9B, clearly indicate that the licensing fee shall be \$100, and that the police department is to retain \$25 of that fee.

“(9A) Except as provided in clause (9B), the fee for an application for a firearm identification card shall be \$100, which shall be payable to the licensing authority and shall not be prorated or refunded in the case of revocation or denial. The licensing authority shall retain \$25 of the fee; \$50 of the fee shall be deposited in the General Fund; and \$25 of the fee shall be deposited in the Firearms Fingerprint Identity Verification Trust Fund. ....

(9B) The application fee for a firearm identification card issued for the sole purpose of purchasing or possessing chemical mace, pepper spray or other similarly propelled liquid, gas or powder designed to temporarily incapacitate shall be \$25, which shall be payable to the licensing authority and shall not be prorated or refunded in the case of revocation or denial. The licensing authority shall retain 50 per cent of the fee and the remaining portion shall be deposited in the General Fund. ...”

Section 131 of that same chapter, pertaining to the License to Carry a Firearm, states:

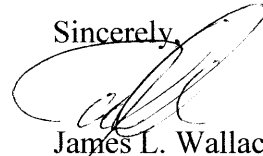
“The fee for the application shall be \$100, which shall be payable to the licensing authority and shall not be prorated or refunded in case of revocation or denial. The licensing authority shall retain \$25 of the fee; \$50 of the fee shall be deposited into the general fund of the commonwealth and not less than \$50,000 of the funds deposited into the General Fund shall be allocated to the Firearm Licensing Review Board, established in section 130B, for its operations and that any funds not expended by said board for its operations shall revert back to

the General Fund; and \$25 of the fee shall be deposited in the Firearms Fingerprint Identity Verification Trust Fund. For law enforcement officials, or local, state, or federal government entities acting on their behalf, the fee for the application shall be set at \$25, which shall be payable to the licensing authority and shall not be prorated or refunded in case of revocation or denial. The licensing authority shall retain \$12.50 of the fee, and \$12.50 of the fee shall be deposited into the general fund of the commonwealth...”

We urge your office to take action to stop the Cambridge Police Department from abusing the public trust, and arrange to have all citizens who have overpaid the \$20 reimbursed. We would also like to see any appropriate criminal charges levied.

Gun Owners' Action League is concerned that this is not an isolated incident. We urge you to begin an investigation to see how far this type of abuse has spread.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,  
  
James L. Wallace  
Executive Director

a report on our Public Log, the cost is .50 a page. Such requests will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, after which you will be contacted with the results, including any additional fees if applicable.

**The Records Unit also provides the following to Cambridge Residents:**

- **Letters of Good Conduct and Adoption:** You need to bring a Massachusetts Drivers License or Mass ID and a utility bill proving you are a Cambridge resident, the fee is \$20.00 made payable to City of Cambridge by Cash or Check (credit cards not accepted).
- **License to Carry Firearms or FID cards:** The Records Unit has a packet which you can pick up during business hours. The cost of a LTC/FID is \$120.00 and is good for 6 years.
- **FID-Chemical Spray (pepper spray):** A one time fee of \$45.00 with free renewals every 6 years. For additional questions call: 617-349-3337.
- **Motor Vehicle Accident Reports:** Can be obtained from the Records Unit the fee is \$5.00. For more information call 617-349-3353 or 349-3336.
- **Sunday/Holiday Work Permits:** A Sunday/Holiday Work Permit must be obtained when any contractor wishes to do work falling on a Sunday or Holiday, please call and speak with Captain Bongiorno for authorization.