



Gun Owners' Action League

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October 30, 2007

The Honorable Deval Patrick
State House
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Patrick,

A few weeks ago we wrote to request that your office take prompt action to remediate the problems in firearms license delays.

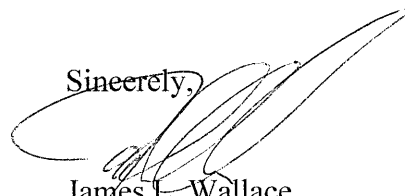
In previous letters we had pointed out to you that the law requires that licenses be issued within 40 days of the date of application. We also reminded you that the law grants a 90 day grace period, or extension, for individuals that apply before their birthday/expiration date.

Yet we continue to receive reports that the police chief in Worcester blatantly delays activating firearms licenses for months, causing people to be in illegal possession of their lawfully purchased firearms. The average turn around time between application and delivery of license seems to be five or six months in that city.

Governor, the system is in need of repair. Police departments need to have a clear directive that they should place a high priority on helping law abiding citizens remain on the right side of the law. The department of the state police, the CHSB, and the Department of Mental Health must all work together to ensure that good people are not placed in jeopardy through no fault of their own.

Enclosed you will find letters of individuals who applied in Springfield, Worcester and Dracut that have been waiting well beyond the 40 days mandated by law.

Sincerely,



James L. Wallace
Executive Director

Print Message

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From

Date 2007/10/25 Thu AM 07:17:11 CDT

To staff@goal.org

Subject Renewal Delay

Dear GOAL,

My firearms license renewal is taking an awfully long time. I had an appointment with my licensing officer on **August 29th** to process my renewal. It has now been **eight (8) weeks** since I applied. My police department just tells me that it is in process. Because I applied before my expiration date, I have a grace period, but that will run out on **December 9th**. Please ask the Governor to do what he can to see that the system gets moving again.

Sincerely,

Dear Bob

My Firearms license renewal is taking an awfully long time. I had an appointment with my licensing officer on June 4, 2007 at the Spfld. Police Dept. to process my renewal. It has now been 19 weeks since I applied. My police department just tell me that it is in process. Because I applied before my expiration date. I have a grace period, but that will run out on Nov. 17, 2007. Please ask the Governor to do what he can do see that the system gets moving again. One person I knew in Aguzzon got it in 3 weeks. One person in Westfield 5 days.

Sincerely
Paul Chubb

October 19, 2007

Dear G.O.A.L.

My firearms license renewal has taken a long time. I had an appointment with my licensing officer on 04/19/2007 to process my application. It has been over twenty-four weeks since. I have checked with the Worcester Police Department and they say it is the process. I applied before my expiration date but my grace period ran out on 08/02/2007. My license was finally issued on 10/02/2007 five months after the grace period of 08/02/2007. Could you please ask the Governor and the State License Commission to look into the excessive time frame for which should have been a 6 week process.

Thank-you in advance

Sincerely,