

Wayne Sampson

From: Wayne Sampson
Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2008 5:00 PM
To: Wayne Sampson
Subject: FW: Senator email draft

Dear Senator,

On behalf of the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association, I would like to express our deep concern over the proposed language to restrict police officers from ensuring the public safety at construction sites. Police chiefs, local public works and local political leaders already consider the following items when assigning officers to traffic:

1. We prioritize the locations where officers are assigned.
2. When a municipality has multiple simultaneous work sites, supervisors are better able to coordinate traffic direction throughout the community.
3. In these difficult times of personnel shortages throughout the state, officers on traffic assignments not only give the appearance of higher visibility but they actually provide a ready source of trained personnel from which chiefs can draw immediate response during times of emergency. .
4. There is currently a shortage of police in Massachusetts communities at this time; any reduction in an officers ability to provide for their family will further reduce the number of quality officers coming into the profession.
5. There are serious questions on what the actual cost savings will really be to the Commonwealth after calculating the costs of pay, unemployment, health benefits, and employer profits.
6. The bill as proposed fails to consult local municipal leaders who are in the best position to understand the needs of their community.

We respectfully request that you delay voting on this aspect of the bill until these questions can be answered.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

A. Wayne Sampson Executive Director Massachusetts Chiefs of police