



National Liquor Law Enforcement Association

Rick Phillips, President
Shawn Walker, Secretary/Treasurer

Linda Ignowski, Vice President
Stacey Drakeford, Sergeant At Arms

September 9, 2005

Chairman Eddie J. Jenkins
Massachusetts Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission
239 Causeway Street
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Chairman Jenkins:

The National Liquor Law Enforcement Association (NLLEA) is committed to improving the standards and practices of liquor law enforcement throughout the United States and Canada. Our mission is to promote liquor law enforcement's role in protecting and promoting public safety as well as providing professional development opportunities for our members. We proudly acknowledge that the enforcement arm of the Massachusetts ABCC is an important member of our association. In fact, Chief Ted Mahony was voted as our association's Law Enforcement Officer of the Year in 2004 for his innovative and progressive approach to alcohol law enforcement issues in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

We understand that Chief Mahony has presented a proposal to arm the sworn members of the Massachusetts Alcohol Beverage Control Commission (MABCC). A number of our member states are also dealing with or have previously dealt with this same issue. We hope that sharing some national trends and the experiences of other states might be helpful to your decision making process.

Our membership is comprised of local police departments, sheriff's departments and state alcohol law enforcement agencies in 42 of the 50 states. Variations in state alcohol beverage control laws account for some variations in mission, but our members generally perform most public safety functions, however the environment in which they perform those functions is unique.

There is no other branch of law enforcement where law enforcement officers work exclusively in an environment where 100 percent of the people they encounter are drinking alcohol, many of them excessively. Their work environment is generally crowded, poorly lit, noisy, and frequently hostile. Very few bars screen their patrons for weapons and loud music frequently makes it impossible to communicate with police radios and cellular

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phones. Even when working in pairs, it is very easy to become separated or lose sight of each other.

The relationship between alcohol and crime is clear. The US Department of Justice reports that nearly 40 percent of violent crimes involve alcohol and many jurisdictions are reporting that 60 to 70 percent of assaults are fueled by alcohol. There has been so much criminal activity associated with bars and nightclubs nationally that our members have had to develop strategies specifically for dealing with problem bars.

We understand that the decision to arm is a complex decision and we hope this information has been helpful to your decision making process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Phillips". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Rick Phillips
President

cc: Ted Mahony, MABCC
Aidan Moore, Past President
Linda Ignowski, Vice President
Shawn Walker, Secretary/Treasurer
Stacy Drakeford, Sergeant at Arms