



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF FIREARMS PERMIT EXAMINERS

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May 14, 2007

The Honorable John Danaher, III
Commissioner
Department of Public Safety
1111 Country Club Road
Middletown, CT 06457

RE: Board of Firearms Permit Case Backlog
Pistol Permit Renewal Process

Dear Commissioner Danaher,

The backlog of cases to be heard by the Board of Firearms Permit Examiners is a substantial concern to the members of the Board. In their annual report, the Auditors of Public Accounts cited this backlog as a concern for the second year in a row. At that time, the wait for a hearing date was **14** months. Today this backlog stands at **304** cases with an estimated wait for a hearing at **16** months.

The Board would greatly appreciate the assistance of the Department of Public Safety in devising strategies to reduce this backlog in the interest of due process. We appreciate the hard work the members of the Connecticut State Police assigned to the Special Licensing and Firearms Unit perform within the narrow constraints imposed by staffing and budget limitations.

One strategy we are contemplating is providing the Unit more advance notice of our hearing docket so they can clear out the uncontested matters and focus on the cases that will require more work on their part. Presently, we provide about one month advance notice of hearings. We are considering setting our calendar ninety days in advance to provide the Unit more lead-time.

We are interested in the Department's response to that idea, and also any other ideas that the Department might have to expedite the appeals process consistent with due process for the applicants and the important mission of insuring that only suitable persons are licensed to carry firearms.

Another issue that has been raised by some members of the Board is whether any of the cases now pending involve the issue of failure to present two forms of identification, such as a passport and birth certificate, for renewal. The state, Connecticut General Statute **29-30** does not call for presentation of any particular types of identification, although it does authorize the Commissioner to conduct a criminal record check. If these documents are required by some federal law or regulation relating to the FBI background check process, then we would like to know because that may be material to the resolution of those appeals. If there is no state statutory or federal statutory or regulatory requirement for presentation of such documents, we are

inclined to resolve appeals involving no other issues on the papers, and accordingly reduce our pending caseload.

We appreciate the Department's continued assistance to the Board and look forward to working with you as you begin your tenure as Commissioner of Public Safety.

Very truly yours,

THE BOARD OF
FIREARMS PERMIT EXAMINERS

CHRISTOPHER ADAMS
Chairman