

To: All Members of the FOP
Date: 3/28/2008

From: Chief George J DiBlasi

Director of Governmental Affairs

Re: Transportation Bond Bill, Paid Police Details

Today at a press conference in the State House held by the Joint Committee on Transportation a cost savings package for Massachusetts was introduced, one of the many topics discussed was the savings of \$100,000,000 over twenty years at \$5,000,000 a year, if Flag Men were used rather than Police Officers for paid details on side streets and dead end roads, Flag Men's proposed use on state highways is unclear. The Governor, the Senate President, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and many other legislators were present at this press event. The Governor will ask his Secretary's of Transportation and Public Safety to look at the issue of Paid Details and the use of Flag Men in Massachusetts and develop rules and regulations concerning this matter. At this time nothing has been decided other than to look at this issue and make recommendations, (how that is going to be done has not yet been decided). At this time no Legislation has been filed to regulate Paid Details. If you have collective Bargaining agreements or Town By-Laws that determine that a Police Officer does this work, you are on pretty good ground. It is likely if they do in fact decide that Flag Men can be used it will hopefully be optional to Municipalities. The one thing that needs to be put forward is if Flag Men are considered rather than Police Officers, the cost savings will be very small because Flag Men will be receiving prevailing Laborers union wages. I think it would be a good idea to let the Governor and your elected Senators and Representatives know that having a police officer at a paid detail is not going to be cost effective since they will receive Laborers union wages and Flag Men do not have the authority to enforce laws or protect the public while working a paid detail.

I can assure you this matter is a number one priority for the Massachusetts Fraternal Order of Police as it is with all other police groups. It is essential that all Public Safety groups get on the same page on this matter. The FOP will keep you informed as this situation develops.

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