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LEGISLATIVE ALERT

To: All Members

From: Chief George J DiBlasi
Director Governmental Affairs
Ma. Fraternal Order of Police

Re: Update on Flagmen

Today during an Informal Session of the House of Representatives, the rules were suspended and they partially dealt with the Transportation Bond Bill, HB 4562. The bill was separated into sections part of it HB 4637 which contained Chapter 90 sections and Child Safety matters was reported out. Other sections were sent back to House Ways and Means. The portion concerning Flagmen was sent to the Senate to be dealt with before the House takes it up. This is good news because it allows public safety representatives time to point out to the Senate why the use of Flagmen is not a good idea before it goes for to a vote of both branches. It is important that you let your Senators know that you are opposed to the use of Flagmen because the amount of money that is saved will be minuscule, \$5,000,000 a year and they will be paying Flagmen the prevailing Laborer's union wages. A flagman cannot enhance public safety while assigned to a worksite. Be sure you are courteous and respectful when talking to your Legislators.

All Police groups have been working diligently for their membership on this important issue. I have been in touch with representatives from the Mass cop, the MPA, Boston Police Patrolman's Association and Ray McGrath Legislative Agent for the IBPO who is also a member of the FOP.

This matter is ongoing and is far from resolution but at this time it appears that legislation will not be filed but there may be CMR's put in place to make recommendations for rules on the use of Flagmen on Public Works projects. I can assure you we will be giving this matter our undivided attention. If you hear anything please let me know, my email address is chfdiblasia@aol.com
Fraternally

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