



Southeastern Massachusetts Police Chiefs Association, Inc.

Professional Public Safety Collaboration

Dear Legislator,

I am writing this letter on behalf of Southeastern Massachusetts Police Chiefs Association which represents member Police Chiefs from the counties of Barnstable, Bristol, Dukes, Nantucket, Norfolk and Plymouth. On 3-11-15 the membership voted to authorize a letter supporting additional Trauma Centers to be established in the Southeastern region of Massachusetts. Many of you have already been taking steps to address this situation we appreciate your efforts.

As you may be aware, the nearest certified trauma center for the majority of Southeastern Massachusetts is located in Rhode Island or Boston. The option of med-flighting patients has its own set of constraints; many times med flights are grounded leaving patients to be transported by ambulance to trauma units in Providence or Boston. A land transport from as far away as Provincetown can be 120 miles. The transport can be further delayed by the influx of the summer tourist season. Needless to say, many patients requiring urgent medical attention from a trauma unit may not have the time needed to make such a long trip.

Several hospitals in Boston have trauma units, yet we do not have one in Barnstable, Plymouth or Bristol Counties. Barnstable County Sheriff James Cummings has brought this topic forward recently and Senator Vincent deMacedo has supported the appropriation of funds allowing DPH to gather data on this topic.

The establishment of additional trauma centers is not only important to our citizenry but is equally important to our Officers who could be subjected to life threatening wounds or injuries at any moment and without provocation. This is clearly evidenced by the recent ambush shooting of Bourne Police Officer Jared MacDonald who .

Representatives from the Southeastern Chiefs of Police association and myself are willing to assist with anything that needs to be done.

Sincerely,
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Yarmouth Chief of Police
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