



The Washington Report

The Newsletter of the National Association of Police Organizations
Representing America's Finest

September 8, 2014

NAPO WASHINGTON REPORT

NAPO Participates in Conference Call with Attorney General Holder

NAPO's Executive Director, Bill Johnson, joined leadership from other national police groups in a phone conversation with Attorney General Eric Holder on September 4, 2014. The Attorney General provided an update on the Department of Justice's "Pattern and Practice" investigation of Ferguson.

NAPO remains heavily engaged on this issue, and will keep our members updated as investigations move forward. If you have any questions about NAPO's interaction with Attorney General Holder, please contact Bill Johnson at: bjohnson@napo.org.

Status of NAPO's Brief of *Amici Curiae*

NAPO has filed an *Amicus Curiae* brief to the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) to urge the Court to review a case that addresses the question of qualified immunity. Specifically, NAPO has filed the brief in an effort to ensure that officers maintain the right to qualified immunity.

The Court has now ordered a response from the plaintiffs. Although it certainly does not guarantee that certiorari will be granted, it does suggest that at least one Justice believes it to be a cert worthy issue. The brief is available on the SCOTUS blog page: <http://www.scotusblog.com/case-files/cases/schultz-v-wescom/>.

NAPO will keep our members updated on the status of this initiative. If you have any questions, please contact Bill Johnson at: bjohnson@napo.org.

NFL Responds to NAPO's Letter Regarding Qualified Off-Duty Officers Carrying Concealed Firearms

On August 12, 2014, NAPO's Executive Director, Bill Johnson, sent a letter to NFL Commissioner Goodell requesting the Commissioner reconsider the League's policy of not allowing qualified off-duty officers to carry their concealed

firearms at games and events, even though the NFL allows private security guards to be armed at those same venues. Copies were also sent to the commissioners of the NBA, NHL, MLB, and the CEO of the National 9/11 Museum in New York, which also has such a policy.

The NFL responded to Johnson's letter on August 22, 2014. (Both Johnson's letter and the NFL's response are attached to this report for your convenience and review).

NAPO will continue to urge the NFL to reconsider its current policy. If you have any questions about NAPO's position, please contact Bill Johnson at: bjohnson@napo.org.

NAPO Meetings on Capitol Hill – Senate HSGAC

Senator Claire McCaskill (D-MO) has scheduled a Senate hearing on September 9, 2014 to examine the "militarization" of local police departments. Senator McCaskill will use the hearing to examine federal programs that enable local police departments to acquire military equipment, such as the Defense Department's 1033 program for surplus property and grants made through the Department of Homeland Security.

In anticipation of the hearing, NAPO has met with staffers for key members of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee (HSGAC), including staffers for Senator McCaskill and **Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA)**, to discuss our views of the 1033 Program. NAPO stressed that the vast majority of equipment provided under the 1033 Program is defensive in nature. Furthermore, the program enables law enforcement departments to garner equipment that they would otherwise be unable to afford. NAPO highlighted that ending the program would leave law enforcement departments unable to equip their officers with the necessary tools to keep their communities safe.

NAPO has been closely tracking pending legislation related to the 1033 Program, and plans to attend this week's hearing. We will continue to provide our members with updates on all legislative initiatives regarding the 1033 Program. If you have any questions about the hearing, please contact Melissa Nee at: mnee@napo.org.

Source:

"After Ferguson Violence, McCaskill to Lead Senate Hearing on Militarization of Local Police Departments | U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill of Missouri." *Press Release*. N.p., 21 Aug. 2014. Web. 05 Sept. 2014.
<http://www.mccaskill.senate.gov/media-center/news-releases/after-ferguson-violence-mccaskill-to-lead-senate-hearing_on-militarization-of-local-police-departments>.

NAPO Meetings on Capitol Hill – Body Cameras

On August 27, 2014, **Congressman Adam Schiff (D-CA)** announced that he is circulating a letter to his colleagues, which will be sent to Attorney General Eric Holder, urging the Department of Justice to help fund local police departments' purchase of small body-worn cameras in order to increase transparency, decrease tensions between police and community members, and create a record of events.

NAPO met with Congressman Schiff's staff on September 4, 2014 to stress the importance of including state and local agencies, as well as law enforcement leadership, in discussions regarding body camera requirements. We also noted that body camera requirement decisions should be made on an agency-by-agency basis.

NAPO looks forward to working with the Congressman as discussions relating to body camera policies move forward. If you have any questions about this meeting, please contact Melissa Nee at: mnee@napo.org.

Source:

"Rep. Schiff Urges Department of Justice to Fund Body-Worn Cameras for Local Police Departments." *Congressman Adam Schiff*. Schiff.hous.gov, 27 Aug. 2014. Web. 5 Sept. 2014. <[http%3A%2F%2Fschiff.house.gov%2Fpress-releases%2Frep-schiff-urges-department-of-justice-to-fund-bodyworn-cameras-for-local-police-departments%2F](http://3A%2F%2Fschiff.house.gov%2Fpress-releases%2Frep-schiff-urges-department-of-justice-to-fund-bodyworn-cameras-for-local-police-departments%2F)>.

NAPO Pursues Passage of Second Chance Reauthorization Act

NAPO continues to pursue the passage of the Second Chance Reauthorization Act. On September 5, 2014, NAPO contacted senior staffers for twenty members of Congress to request they consider cosponsoring the legislation. NAPO highlighted our support of the Second Chance Reauthorization Act of 2013, which improves state and local grant programs to promote successful prisoner reentry and improve public safety. This legislation continues targeted funding for reentry programs at the state and local level that have been proven to reduce recidivism, lead to better outcomes for those released from prison, and save prison costs.

NAPO plans to continue to work with key stakeholders to urge the House and Senate Judiciary Committees to mark-up the legislation this fall. We will keep our members updated on the status of this initiative.

If you have any questions about this legislation, please contact Melissa Nee at: mnee@napo.org.

NAPO Roundtable Discussion

Please join NAPO **October 24 - 25**, at the Red Rock Casino, Resort & Spa in Las Vegas to participate in a NAPO leadership Roundtable Discussion. Topics include the Affordable Care Act; Current Labor Issues Nationally; Our Opponents' Legislative and P.R. Strategy; National Image and Awareness of NAPO; and Recruiting and Growth for our Association. Be a part of setting the direction for our organization's future.

Please complete the registration form attached to this report and return the document to NAPO attention: Elizabeth Loranger by **October 6**. Fax to (703) 684-0515 or email to eloranger@napo.org.

Please monitor NAPO's website www.napo.org, and Facebook page: National Association of Police Organizations, and follow us on Twitter at NAPOpolice for breaking news and updates.



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.
Representing America's Finest

317 South Patrick Street ~ Alexandria, Virginia ~ 22314-3501
(703) 549-0775 ~ (800) 322-NAPO ~ Fax: (703) 884-0515
www.napo.org ~ Email: info@napo.org

August 8, 2014

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

THOMAS J. NEE
President
Boston Police
Patrolmen's Association

MICHAEL McHALE
Executive Vice President
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Association

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JOHN A. FLYNN
Executive Secretary
Patrolmen's Benevolent
Association of New York City

WILLIAM J. JOHNSON
Executive Director

Mr. Roger Goodell
Commissioner, National Football League
280 Park Avenue, 15th Floor
New York, New York 10017

Re: NFL's policy on law enforcement officers carrying concealed firearms

Dear Commissioner Goodell,

On behalf of the more than 200,000 law enforcement officers represented by our Association, including officers in a sizable majority of the cities represented by the League's teams, I wish to ask you to reconsider the League's policy regarding the carrying of concealed firearms by qualified, off-duty law enforcement officers. As you know, the League, by memo dated September 11, 2013, purported to strictly prohibit the possession of firearms by anyone other than on-duty law enforcement officers working a game or event, and private security guards engaged by a club.

First, let me clear that no single group of professionals abhors firearms violence more than us. Our National Law Enforcement Officers' Memorial adds the names of *hundreds* of our fallen comrades to its marble walls each year. In addition, no one works harder than us to rid our communities of firearms and other weapons in the hands of criminals. However, the NFL's own policy on firearms, by allowing their possession by qualified individuals, recognizes the value of the presence of armed officers at games and venues.

It is unquestionable that large gatherings of citizen spectators at events such as NFL games can provide a tempting target for the deranged and the wicked. In recognition on this fact, every state in the Union of which we are aware, and the federal Congress as well, provides for the ability of off-duty law enforcement officers, who are otherwise fully qualified and trained, to carry on or about their person a firearm. Our society, through its elected representatives, recognizes both the value of additional, armed "good guys" at well-attended events, as well as the necessity of officers' being able to protect themselves and others. Also, we understand that the NFL's policy is not enforced at League games and events in Texas, and is under serious legal challenge in Minnesota. Finally, the reasons proffered in support of the policy, such as officers not being held to account for their actions, are spurious, in that every single jurisdiction in the United States which hosts NFL games already criminalizes the reckless display or use of a firearm. This is in addition to law enforcement agency policies that also rigidly govern the use of force by officers, both on and off duty.

We would therefore respectfully request that you revise this policy to allow otherwise qualified off-duty officers to retain their firearms at League games and events.

Sincerely,

William J. Johnson
Executive Director



Jeffrey B. Miller
Vice President & Chief Security Off
345 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10154-0102
(212) 450-2000

August 22, 2014

William J. Johnson
Executive Director
National Association of Police Organizations
317 South Park Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about the NFL's policy restricting firearms and other weapons inside NFL stadiums and facilities. Please be aware that the NFL has the highest regard for our nation's law enforcement professionals, as well as full confidence in their ability to enforce the law and protect public safety. As the former Commissioner of the Pennsylvania State Police, I too deplore firearm violence and have witnessed far too often the tragedy and suffering caused by firearms and other weapons in the hands of criminals.

As I have emphasized many times before and continue to believe is true, the safest environment for NFL fans is achieved by limiting the number of firearms and weapons inside stadiums to those required by officers that perform specifically assigned law enforcement working functions and game day duties. On average, more than 500 civilian security personnel and 150 on-duty uniformed armed law enforcement officers are assigned to protect public safety and enforce the law *at every NFL stadium at every game*. These security personnel are specially trained and required to participate in weekly meetings involving pre game day and game day security and law enforcement planning, strategy, and emergency response procedures and protocols. The officers know one another, work together on a regular basis, and have specific game day assignments, responsibilities, and duties.

Off-duty law enforcement officers attend games as fans or spectators. They are unknown to working law enforcement officers. They may not have the same training and do not participate in the weekly preparation meetings. If permitted to carry concealed weapons, they create deconfliction issues for working law enforcement officers and increase the potential for "blue-on-blue" confrontations. They also impact security screening personnel required to accurately identify, verify, and authenticate multiple federal, state, and local law enforcement agency badges and credentials. Moreover, off-duty law enforcement officers are not included in the on-site law enforcement chain of command.

NFL

William J. Johnson

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Although most police officers are bound by department or agency policies that restrict their use of alcohol or subject them to "on-duty" behavior standards if armed when off duty, the NFL has experienced that in reality, there are inconsistent standards for officer behavior based upon duty status.

The NFL's policy restricting the possession of firearms and other weapons inside NFL stadiums and facilities was adopted after a great deal of consideration, which included seeking advice from a wide range of law enforcement personnel and security experts. The policy is one of many measures the NFL has taken to enhance the safety and security of the public at NFL stadiums.

I have committed many years to serving the public and consider public safety and security paramount. With that in mind, I oversee compliance with the *NFL's Best Practices for Stadium Security*, which provides comprehensive security screening for all persons permitted inside stadiums, as well as their personal belongings. As a result, NFL fans, including off-duty law enforcement officers enjoy NFL games in one of the safest environments available to experience a live professional sporting event.

I am willing to discuss this matter further with you and request your support in assisting the NFL and the many federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies across the country that provide the safest, most secure environment possible for the public to enjoy NFL football.

Best regards,



Jeffrey B. Miller
Vice President & Chief Security Officer

345 Park Avenue – New York, New York – 10154-0102



National Association of Police Organizations 2014 NAPO Roundtable

Red Rock Casino, Resort & Spa
Las Vegas, Nevada
October 24 - 25, 2014

Please join NAPO October 24 - 25, at the Red Rock Casino, Resort & Spa in Las Vegas to participate in a NAPO leadership Roundtable Discussion. Topics include the Affordable Care Act; Current Labor Issues Nationally; Our Opponents' Legislative and P.R. Strategy; National Image and Awareness of NAPO; Recruiting and Growth for our Association. Be a part of setting the direction for our organization's future.

Please complete the registration form and return to NAPO

attention: Elizabeth Loranger by October 6. Fax to (703) 684-0515 or email to elorange@napo.org. NAPO has reserved a block of rooms at The Red Rock Resort. Room rates are \$160 per night plus a \$15 resort fee, which includes shuttle transportation to and from the airport. To make reservations please call (866) 767-8880 and tell them you are with NAPO. In order to receive the reduced rate reservations must be made by September 29. The hotel is expected to sell out so please make your hotel reservations today!

Roundtable Discussion Registration

Roundtable Schedule

| | | |
|----------------------|--------------|------------------------|
| Friday, October 24 | Registration | 1:30 p.m. — 2:00 p.m. |
| | Roundtable | 2:00 p.m. — 5:00 p.m. |
| Saturday, October 25 | Roundtable | 9:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m. |
| | Lunch | 12:00 p.m. — 1:00 p.m. |

The Registration Fee of \$75.00 per person includes seminar materials, coffee breaks, and lunch.

Name: Title:

Organization:

Address:

City, State, Zip Code:

Phone: Email:

Please provide names for individuals as they should appear on name badge:

Attendee 1:

Attendee 2:

Attendee 3:

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