



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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PAUL ADAMS
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

17TH ESSEX DISTRICT
ANDOVER, LAWRENCE, TEWKSBURY

Committees:
Revenue
Public Health
Telecommunications, Utilities & Energy

STATE HOUSE, ROOM 39
TEL. (617) 722-2800, Ext. 8670
Paul.Adams@MAhouse.gov

Monday, August 29, 2011

Mayor William Lantigua
Lawrence City Hall, 3rd Floor
200 Common Street
Lawrence, MA 01841

Dear Mayor Lantigua:

I write to implore that you use \$1.2 million in Local Aid Reversions sent to the city this fall to re-hire as many police as possible.

Reversions are funds left unspent in state accounts at the end of a fiscal year that would otherwise be sent to the General Revenue Fund. For FY'12, a total of \$65 million will be distributed back to cities and towns as local aid no later than October 31st. This effort was spearheaded by the Republican caucus, passed by the full legislature, and signed by the Governor.

Given the possibility for additional resources from the state, Lawrence must do all it can to address criminal activity, including:

1. Consider permanently extending the proposed temporary policy to close bars and nightclubs one hour earlier (to 1 A.M.) on weekend evenings, which will allow for heightened police presence while patrons exit. This action is more consistent with alcohol policies of cities and towns in the region and has support from the city's Licensing Commission. It also has support among a broad swath of Lawrence residents with whom I have spoken.
2. You will also note my letter to Governor Patrick in which I asked him to call in additional State Police patrols to help maintain order for a 2-3 month interim period until Lawrence obtains its pro-rata portion of Local Aid Reversions and additional police officers can be reinstated. Police are especially needed in the downtown area on weekend evenings. State Police patrols have been used in the past and were effective in curbing violence and restoring order.

Please reach me anytime should you wish to discuss this further. I look forward to your timely response.

Best regards,

Paul Adams
State Representative
17th Essex District
Andover, Lawrence, Tewksbury

Cc: Robert Nunes, Fiscal Overseer, Office of the Mayor
Cc: Patrick Blanchette, Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor
Cc: John Romero, Chief of Police, City of Lawrence