



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

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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