



NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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CHUCK CANTERBURY
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

JAMES O. PASCO, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. Roger S. Goodell
Commissioner
National Football League
280 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10017

25 September 2013

Dear Commissioner Goodell,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to express our disappointment and concerns with respect to the new policy of the National Football League (NFL) to prohibit the lawful carriage of firearms within any NFL facility—including offices, stadiums and practice facilities. This directive applies not only to individuals holding valid concealed carry weapons (CCW) permits but also to off-duty and retired law enforcement officers carrying their firearms under the provisions of the Law Enforcement Officers' Safety Act (LEOSA).

I am certainly aware that there have been individual venues which have prohibited firearms on their premises, but I do not understand and do not agree with the League extending this policy to all NFL facilities by fiat. Law enforcement officers, which you employed to protect teams and the stadiums in which they play, do not suddenly become a security risk if they attend an NFL game on their day off or after they retire. In fact, having fully trained and sworn law enforcement officers, active or retired, improves security and the safety of the fans attending the game. In addition, the safety of the officer and his family is potentially at risk from criminals seeking revenge against the individuals responsible for their arrest or incarceration. Active and retired law enforcement officers must meet a much higher standard of qualification than your average CCW permit-holder. Active duty officers must keep their firearms training up to date continuously and the LEOSA requires retired officers to meet active duty standards for firearms training annually. For all of these reasons Congress elected to create an exemption to local and State law prohibiting the carriage of firearms. We ask that you consider such an exemption as well.

Our members are angry at this change in policy because they do not view themselves as posing a security risk to their fellow fans, players or NFL employees. Our State and local lodges in the 32 NFL cities will also be reaching out to team owners, venue owners, and local businesses to share the concerns of FOP members with respect to the new NFL policy. It is our desire to engage with you on this matter in a cooperative way and I am confident that we can find a way forward.

I thank you in advance for your consideration on this issue and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,


Chuck Canterbury
National President