

Illegal Tobacco Task Force Minutes

Meeting Date: 1/27/2020

Meeting Time: 10:30am

Meeting Location: 100 Cambridge Street, 2nd Floor, Conference Room C

Board Members Present: Marikae Toye (Co-Chair), Maj. Steve Fennessey (Co-Chair), Patricia Henley, Amber Villa, Jennifer Zalnasky, Susan Terrey

Others: Scott Delaney, Dan Less, Michael D’Ortenzio, Nicholas Ogden, Roseann Ferrante, Collins Muniu, Peter French, Lisa Dell’Anno, Dave Cahill, Marc Hymovitz, Emily Kowtonink, Paul Casey, Steven Byrne, Alex Finkle, Patrick Johnson, Brenda McConville, Evan Garcia

Call to Order:

- Meeting was called to order at 10:37am by Mrs. Toye
- Mrs. Toye thanked everyone for attending and asked for any member of the press to identify themselves.
- No press was present.
- Members were asked by Mrs. Toye to review meeting minutes for both the November and December meetings.
 - For the November 19, 2019 Meeting Minutes
 - Motion to approve by Ms. Villa
 - Second by Ms. Henley
 - For the December 17, 2019 Meeting Minutes
 - Motion to approve by Ms. Villa
 - Second by Ms. Terrey
 - All minutes were approved unanimously.

Storage Update:

- Mrs. Toye asked Ms. Villa to open the discussion on the potential storage space with an update from the AG’s office. According to Ms. Villa, the office has a copy of the lease and is making edits to it. She does not believe the AG should be the lease signatory.
- Mrs. Toye agrees that there is still understanding needed on who should be the lease holder. She mentioned her questions on large group responsibility – who will the responsibility fall on.
- Major Fennessey said he believes the responsibility will likely fall on the State Police and will be discussing it with leadership.
- In terms of budgeting, Mrs. Toye says additional funding to pay for the storage space has been asked for. It was included in the Governor’s Budget proposal. It will also include funding for

destruction efforts, staffing needs and operational needs with new directives from the Vaping Law changes.

Recent Law Changes

- Mrs. Toye called attention to letter provided to the Task Force from a few Massachusetts Legislators. Their letters voiced their concerns and questions with the upcoming June start of the new vaping law changes.
- Floor was open for the Task Force members to discuss their questions and concerns for the future.
- Ms. Villa added to the conversation that she finds it hard to put a scope on the illegal black market activity – numbers wise.
- Mrs. Toye also added that she felt it was time to have a public forum in the wake of the new law changes coming. She also asked the Task Force members to begin making suggestions on topics to discuss, speaker ideas, areas of focus, etc.
- When opened for public discussion, Mr. Finkle of SICPA suggested vape stamping as a possible topic to discuss at a public forum. He states that he/SICPA would be able to present on the topic and provide information on the current market.
- It was decided that the Task Force will hold a public forum during the week of March 23, 2020. Mrs. Toye says she will finalize plans for the forum.

Other Business:

- The deadline for the Task Force annual report, approaches on March 1. Mrs. Toye asked the Task Force for guidance on next steps and typical course of action.
- Upon discussion, Mrs. Toye decided she will begin drafting a copy of the report. She will share it with the Task Force for review and approval.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:25 by Mrs. Toye.