

Illegal Tobacco Task Force Minutes

Meeting Date: June 19, 2019

Meeting Time: 10:00am

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

Board Members Present: Kajal Chattopadhyay (Co-Chair), Maj. Steve Fennessey (Co-Chair), Patricia Henley, Amber Villa, Jennifer Zalnasky.

Others: Evan Garcia, Brenda McConville, Kevin Brown, Patrick Johnson, Collins Munio, Dan Less, Ben Solivan, Peter French, Maggie Cohen, Dave Cahill.

Call to Order:

- Meeting was called to order at 10:11am by Mr. Chattopadhyay.
- Task Force members were called to review and approve the previous meeting minutes
 - A motion was made by Maj. Fennessey to approve the minutes.
 - Ms. Villa seconded the motion.
 - Meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Housekeeping Items:

- A new Task Force member was introduced by Mr. Chattopadhyay. Jennifer Zalnasky will be representing the Attorney General's Office along with Ms. Villa. Jennifer is replacing Tom Bocian.
- Ms. Zalnasky introduced herself and her background in Criminal Appeals.
- Mr. Chattopadhyay also reminded the Task Force that Former Task Force Member David Solet has been replaced by John Melander, who will be the new EOPPS representative.
- An update on Task Force Funding/Budget was also given by Mr. Chattopadhyay. Although at the time of the meeting the budget is not final, Mr. Chattopadhyay mentioned the Task Force will remain level funded. ISA's have been prepared and sent to member agencies.
- The OTP Stamping proposal, according to Mr. Chattopadhyay, is still in review. He informed the Task Force that it was included in the House and Senate budgets, but the budget committee is still reviewing.
- Mr. Chattopadhyay also informed the Task Force this was his last meeting. He will be going back to School at the Harvard Kennedy School beginning this summer. A successor has yet to be named in place. In the interim, he acknowledged that Kevin Brown will be DOR's representative.
- Ms. Henley from DPH gave an update on the POST software. According to her, POST is up and running and she is hoping to get access for the Task Force to use it and collect info.
- The AGO's office gave an update on a few cases their office watching. In NJ, a 93A against EON is underway. The company has said to be targeting youth, making Juul copycat products, no age

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- Verification for online purchases and not registered with the FDA.
- An investigation against Juul is also ongoing, with NC being the latest to take up action.

Seizure & Store Presentation by Sgt. Pat Johnson:

- Sgt. Pat Johnson with the MA State Police/AGO gave an in-depth overview of their storage operation that is currently being maintained at various locations.
- According to Sgt. Johnson there are many obstacles that officer face when dealing with storage constraints of seized product.
- The Conex Bin containers (which are being used) have poor ventilation, which means product does not get air and the smell is horrible. Any product stored in the bins cannot be transported to their additional space in Milford.
- The Milford location is a good space, with room and ventilation, but it is a shared space.
- In terms of Evidence Destruction, Sgt. Johnson said mentioned what a few states are doing, and what we have done here in MA. Burning of evidence is happening in Pennsylvania by NJ Law Enforcement. MA has shredded evidence in the past, but that created contamination issues with the vendor.
- Ms. Garcia and Ms. McConville of DOR added their stories of seizing product and the issues they're having with storage.
- Ms. Villa posed a question to whether the Task Force could continue the conversation and put pressure statewide, maybe we (the state) could tap into resources to get this done correctly.
- Mr. Less also suggested maybe the Task Force tap into 3rd parties who outsource this type of service.

Other Business:

- Mr. Chattopadhyay thanked the Task Force for all their hard work. No meetings will be set for the summer until a successor is named.
- Maj. Fennessey thanked Mr. Chattopadhyay for his leadership.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:01am by Mr. Chattopadhyay.