

FROM THE DESK OF

JOHN P. SILVAGGIO

TO: Rhode Island House Committee on Judiciary
FROM: John P. Silvaggio
DATE: April 9, 2026

RE: Rebuttal to South Kingstown Police Chief Testimony regarding H7754/H7755

I, John P. Silvaggio, formally submit this rebuttal to challenge the credibility and factual basis of the testimony provided to this body on April 8, 2026, by the South Kingstown Police Chief and the Executive Director of the RI Police Chiefs' Association.

Contradiction of Vetting Capabilities (H7754):

The Chief testified to an inability to properly vet suitability of applicants under the current shall issue framework. This assertion is factually inconsistent with documented administrative actions. Attached to this statement is documentation of permit applications within House Minority Leader Michael Chippendale and Chair of Judiciary Committee Carol Hogan's districts. Despite these applicants possessing valid permits from other states—proving they have cleared rigorous vetting—they were denied locally without substantive cause. This evidence demonstrates that the inability to vet is a false narrative used to justify current non-compliance with the shall issue mandate.

Attempt to Codify Liability Protection (H7754):

Rather than following current statutory mandates, the agency is now advocating for additional (H7754) barriers of entry. This is an attempt to codify the arbitrary practices currently implemented to bypass the law, effectively rewarding past non-compliance with new legislative cover for their liability.

Threat to Gainful Employment (H7755/H7754):

Furthermore, implementation of H7755 alongside the new proposed barriers of H7754 creates a threat to the gainful employment of certified firearm instructors by establishing a system that prohibits current professionals from obtaining the credentials required to teach mandatory safety courses, effectively legislating them out of their livelihoods.

I request that this evidence be entered into the permanent legislative record to ensure a full and accurate representation of the practical and economic consequences of these bills.

Signed,



John P. Silvaggio

Johnston Police Department

Page: 1

NARRATIVE FOR LIEUTENANT STEVEN P GUILMETTE

Ref: 22-28-IV

Entered: 12/29/2022 @ 1110 Entry ID: 74SG
Modified: 12/29/2022 @ 1237 Modified ID: 74SG

12/29/2022 1100

The applicant, John Patrick Silvaggio age 37 years of age, completed and submitted an application requesting he be issued a concealed weapons permit. Mr. Silvaggio's license does show that he is a resident of the Town of Johnston, RI and currently resides at 126 Headley Ave. It should be noted that on the application he does not list his current address. I confirmed his current address by RI Registry (license # [REDACTED]). Mr. Silvaggio indicated that he carries weapons and cash on his person and his reason for applying for a concealed carry permit is for his personal protection.

Mr. Silvaggio submitted three (3) letters of reference as required and his firearms score indicated he successfully qualified by Firearms Instructor [REDACTED]. He qualified with a .45 caliber handgun and scored a 243 with the ARMYL course. Mr. Silvaggio submitted three (3) letters of reference. The letters were submitted by [REDACTED]. All three references confirmed Mr. Silvaggio to be responsible and of high moral character recommending that a concealed carry permit be issued. RILETS/NCIC, TLO and RONCO checks were negative on Mr. Silvaggio.

After conducting this background investigation, it was determined that there is an on going investigation with Mr. Silvaggio and the State of Rhode Island. I did contact Mr. Silvaggio on this matter and he refused to give me any information regarding this investigation. This investigation has been going on since March 24, 2021. Mr. Silvaggio did have a concealed pistol permit and the Attorney General revoked it March 17, 2014 for Not Responsive/Cooperative in Investigation.

Mr. Silvaggio has applied to other police departments for reinstatement of his permit. Mr. Silvaggio stated to me that he applied to the Attorney General, Warwick PD, Narragansett PD, Coventry PD and Foster PD all who which denied his permit to carry due to the Attorney General revoking his permit on March 3, 2014. I did contact several of these Departments and they all stated it was due to the State revoking his permit was the reason why they denied his request for a New License to Carry a Concealable Weapon.

Therefore, after taking all of the above mentioned facts and circumstances into consideration, I recommend to Acting Chief Vieira that his request for a Concealed Pistol Permit be Denied at this time. I also recommend that Mr. Silvaggio respond back to the Attorney General Office in the further for a License to carry a concealable weapons permit since this is an on going investigation with them. It should be noted that Forster PD did email me a copy of their investigation in the same matter which they denied Mr. Silvaggio a License to Carry a Concealable weapons permit also. See attached from Forster PD.


Lt. Steven Guilmette #8