John Reinstein
Legal Director
American Civil Liberties Union
Foundation of Massachusetts
99 Chauncy Street, Suite 310
Boston, MA 02111

RE: Public Records Response

Dear Director Reinstein:

Your public records request dated October 31, 2003 to Chief Meara of the Springfield Police Department has been referred to the Springfield Law Department for response.

The records you requested are property of the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI") which has objected to their release. See attached letter. Moreover, it appears that the requested documents are specifically or by necessary implication exempted from disclosure by federal law and that the disclosure of the documents could detract from effective law enforcement to such a degree as to be detrimental to the public interest so that they are exempt from the Massachusetts public records law under MASS. GEN. LAWS ANN. ch. 4 § 7 (26) (a), (f). Since the requested documents are FBI property and exempt from the Massachusetts public records statute, your request must be and hereby is denied.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Harry P. Carroll, Esq.
Deputy City Solicitor

cc/fax: Chief Meara
SSA Katz, ADC
AUSA O'Regan
File

ACLU re Joint Terrorism Task Force.1.wpd
In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

One Center Plaza
Boston, MA 02108
617-742-5533
November 12, 2003

via fax to (413) 787-6173

RE: ACLU request for JTFF records

Mr. Carroll,

The purpose of this letter is to elucidate the position of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Boston Division, (FBI Boston) regarding release of documents pertaining to the Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTFF) pursuant to a request made under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

All documents, records, materials or other information developed by or for the JTFF is the property of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The JTFF is under FBI direction and control and is a federal entity. Neither the Springfield Police Department nor any local or state department or agency has the authority to release such records. In brief, such records are FBI property and you may not release them.

The proper method for a request pertaining to any such records is a Freedom of Information Act request directed to the FBI. Any such request made to FBI Boston will be handled in accordance with established law and procedures.

Sincerely,

Kenneth W. Kaiser
Special Agent in Charge

By: Damon A. Katz
Associate Division Counsel