



City of Cambridge

41.

IN CITY COUNCIL

April 26, 1999

COUNCILLOR TOOMEY
COUNCILLOR BORN
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
MAYOR DUEHAY
VICE MAYOR GALLUCCIO
COUNCILLOR REEVES
COUNCILLOR RUSSELL
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU

WHEREAS: It has come to the attention of this City Council that State Trooper Lieutenant Colonel John DiFava has been appointed by the Governor as head of the Massachusetts State Police; and

WHEREAS: John, a twenty-five year veteran, began his career as a patrol officer in 1974 and quickly rose through the ranks to become commander of the marine unit and head of the tactical operations unit; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That this City Council go on record extending its congratulations to State Trooper Lieutenant Colonel John DiFava on his new position as the head of the Massachusetts State Police; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to John DiFava on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council April 26, 1999.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "D. Margaret Drury".

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

Councillor Gormey

Whereas: It has come to the attention of this City Council that State Trooper Lieutenant Colonel John DiFAVA has been appointed by the Governor as head of the Massachusetts State Police; and

Whereas John, a 25 year veteran, began his career as a patrol officer in 1974 and quickly rose through the ranks to become Commander of the marine unit and head of the tactical operations unit; and now therefore be it

Resolved: That this City Council go on record extending its Congratulations to ~~John~~ State Trooper Lieutenant Colonel John DiFAVA on his new position as the head of the Massachusetts State Police; and be it further

Resolved SEC to John Di Fava

4/14/99 @ 8:45

TT

Joseph Rudgis, Sr.

Herald pg 14

Congrat new St Police Colonel

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State OK to collect DNA database on convicts

apply to those convicted of 33 offenses, including sex offenses, armed robbery, and armed robbery. Attorney General Thomas Reilly said the implementation of the database is "a long time coming." He said it is a dramatic breakthrough in this state for law enforcement and for the people of the state. While law enforcement officials hailed the decision, civil libertarians said it could lead to misuse of the information and had the potential to strip DNA from people merely arrested, not convicted. DNA evidence should be in the hands of the person, not the police, said John Roberts, president of the Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts. "Whenever you put something in a database, it's there to stay there forever," said Suffolk County District At-

torney Ralph C. Martin II said those who have not committed a crime have nothing to fear.

"I don't see where the rub is," he said. "I'm predicting not only will it help convict, it will also help exonerate people who are falsely accused."

John Reinstein, a CLUM lawyer who argued the case for the seven plaintiffs, said he was troubled by Greaney's citing of the fact all other states have passed similar statutes. "It's the role of the Legislature to follow the crowd," Reinstein said. "The court has a far different role."

Both Reinstein and Roberts said the collection and retaining of the DNA evidence could also clear the way for the data to be used in other ways, such as by health or insurance agencies looking for information on patients or clients.

Six of the seven people who brought the suit against the state attorney general were either in jail, on probation or on parole. Middlesex Superior Court Judge Isaac Borenstein granted an injunction blocking the taking of DNA samples last summer. Until the injunction, the state had collected about 2,500 DNA samples and was prepared to collect about 2,000 more.

In vacating Borenstein's order, the SJC said concerns over using the data for other purposes were justified but noted the law was written to prevent such misuse.

State Sen. Cheryl Jacques (D-Needham), one of the law's main proponents, said the SJC understood the Legislature's intent in crafting the bill to prevent medical and research information from being obtained.

"It's not about branding," said Jacques. "It's an investigating database. It's very narrowly drafted to make sure every possible effort to protect privacy is included."

Veteran trooper DiFava named head of state police

By BEVERLY FORD

Gov. Paul Cellucci yesterday named veteran state trooper Lt. Col. John DiFava to head the Massachusetts State Police, filling a vacancy that occurred when Col. Reed F. Hillman resigned last month to run for state representative.

"It's probably the highest honor someone in this department could receive," said the 47-year-old DiFava between congratulatory phone calls from his fellow troopers. "What makes it more sweet is the support of the rank and file."

Fellow troopers cheered DiFava's appointment, saying they were "thrilled" with their new leader.

"It's a tremendous move," said Trooper Dean Bennett, head of the union that represents the state's 1,800 troopers. "I've known him for the 25 years he's been on the job and he's a fine choice."

DiFava started as a patrol officer in 1974 and rose through the ranks quickly to become commander of the marine unit and later head of the department's tactical operations unit.

He also spent much of his career as a member of the underwater recovery team and served as commander of Troop F at Logan Airport and Troop H in South Boston. Since February 1998, he has been in charge of the Division of Field Services for the department.

Cellucci, who picked DiFava out of seven other top contenders, praised his new top cop, saying he's "committed himself to protecting our neighborhoods and

communities from violence and crime."

"Col. DiFava is an innovative and creative leader of proven integrity who has the skills and experience to lead the state police into the next century," added Secretary of Public Safety Jane Perlov.

All the praise seemed a bit overwhelming for the department's new head, who said he went to meet with Cellucci expecting to be interviewed and came out with the job.

"It's very heady, that's for sure," he said with a laugh.

But the highest praise came from his fellow troopers, who gave him "high fives" after they heard DiFava had been named their new boss.

"I was just overwhelmed by the support of the membership," he said. "It was really thrilling that wherever you go, everyone gives you the high five. I think even if I didn't get the job, that would be the high point of my career."

While news of his appointment was spreading among the troops, word took longer to reach DiFava's wife, Karen, and their 7-month-old son, John — even though they were the first to receive a call.

"All I'm getting is voice mail," he lamented.

But all of the recent attention has not thwarted DiFava's focus.

"I have a lot of ideas," he said, rattling off plans to bring more police services to local communities and get troopers more involved in the decision-making process. "I want to keep this department on the cutting edge of the 21st century," he said.

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1.

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Retired Justice Liacos in fair condition at MGH

By MAGGIE MULVIHILL

Retired Supreme Judicial Court Chief Justice Paul J. Liacos remained in "fair condition" at Massa-

chusetts General Hospital last night, a hospital spokeswoman said.

Liacos, 69, cut short a vacation at his Florida home last week and was rushed back to Boston for an undisclosed ailment; said a source familiar with his condition.

Liacos, who retired from the court in 1996 after a 20-year career, has suffered in the past from dia-

N BEST SUITS YOU, BOSTON?



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Consent ORder #41 481R

Councillor Toomey re: congratulations
to State Trooper Lieutenant Colonel
John DiFava on being appointed by the
Governor as head of the Massachusetts
State Police.

In City Council April 26, 1999

ORDER ADOPTED