

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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September 20, 2016

Mr. Roger S. Goodell
Commissioner
National Football League
280 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10017

Dear Commissioner Goodell:

The Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA) requests that the National Football League (NFL) policy that bans off-duty law enforcement officers from carrying their weapons into games be abandoned.

The duty to serve does not end at the end of a shift for federal law enforcement officers. It is a 24-hour commitment to making safe the streets of cities and towns across America. It is unfortunate, but large public gatherings are targets for violent terrorist attacks. The addition of armed, trained and observant law enforcement officers at these events will ensure that, should the unthinkable occur, rapid response by skilled professionals can be engaged to help protect those involved.

It has been widely recognized and legislated that by carrying concealed weapons, law enforcement officers protect the public. In fact, the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act (LEOSA) was intended to allow active and retired law enforcement officers to carry concealed weapons nationwide. The purpose of this law is to take advantage of the trained men and women of law enforcement to deter terrorism.

Inherent in all federal law enforcement training is the proper use of force and awareness of the safety of the surrounding members of the public. Federal agents are routinely armed at public events and provide an added safety factor. Additionally, federal agency policies and procedures uniformly mandate the display of proper identification and prohibit the consumption of alcohol when armed which will diminish any concerns of unintended consequences.

It has come to our attention that legislation in Texas now permits off duty law enforcement officers to be armed at Houston Texans and Dallas Cowboys football games. We encourage you to expand this extended safety factor to all of your stadiums.

Respectfully,

Nathan Catura

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FLEOA National President