



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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## Press Release

### Norfolk DA Morrissey and Insurance Fraud Bureau team up to save consumers money

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Insurance Fraud Bureau executive director Daniel Johnston met with Norfolk District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey in his Canton office this week to renew the successful partnership with Quincy and Randolph Police to fight automobile insurance fraud.

"We have referred more cases than ever before this year, but cases on a smaller scale," Johnston said. "We are not seeing the staged-accident rings and organizations that we saw when this started in 2005. We have to credit that change to our law enforcement partners and the fraud investigators who work with them."

The District Attorney said that the problem of insurance fraud is both "a consumer issue and a public safety" concern. "Every dollar that insurance companies pay out in false theft or accident claims is ultimately coming from the increased premiums of honest customers," District Attorney Morrissey said. "And even fake, staged crashes can cause very real injuries."

The task force was founded in 2005, including initially Randolph and then Quincy Police as well as target departments in other regions of the state. That year, the problem of fake thefts and fake accidents had received widespread attention after a staged accident in Essex County left a Lawrence grandmother dead – and the man who staged the crash convicted of Manslaughter.

"These were crimes of opportunity, when the industry and local authorities were not geared toward investigating what appeared to be run-of-the-mill accidents," Morrissey said. "Now that the focus, training, and awareness are present we are seeing the schemes going away."

The number of injuries reported per 100 accidents has dropped from 45 to 35 in Quincy and Randolph since the task force has been operating, according to Johnston.

"Coordinating and using resources effectively has essentially stemmed what was a growing problem," District Attorney Morrissey said. "That comes down to our partnership with the Insurance Fraud Bureau and the leadership of Quincy Police Chief Paul Keenan and Randolph Chief William Pace."