

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

NORFOLK DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

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Press Release

DA Morrissey and IFB renew partnership Targeting fraud to save ratepayers money

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Norfolk District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey has been awarded a \$45,000 grant from the Insurance Fraud Bureau of Massachusetts (IFB) to continue a successful partnership investigating and prosecuting faked accidents and bogus claims – and saving money for consumers in the process.

"Every dollar that insurance companies pay out in fraudulent claims is reflected in higher insurance costs passed along to innocent policy holders," District Attorney Morrissey said. "We are approaching 20 years year taking part in this effort, and the IFB's statistics show this to be a very successful partnership."

Contributed photo info: Anthony M. DiPaolo, the Executive Director of the Internet Fraud Bureau of Massachusetts, left, presents Norfolk District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey the grant check to fund another year of investigating and addressing insurance fraud in Norfolk County.

According to the IFB's executive director Anthony M. DiPaolo, the Community Insurance Fraud Initiative has dropped insurance premiums state-wide, and not just in the areas the CIFI targets. "The CIFI program has had a deterrent effect on the state as a whole as well, with policyholders saving hundreds of millions of dollars in premiums since the start of the program in 2003," DiPaolo said.

The insurance fraud initiative began on the North Shore in 2003, after a woman was killed in a staged accident. The Norfolk DA's office joined the partnership in 2005, first focusing on Randolph, and partnering with Randolph Police, because that town had the worst fraud indication statistics in the county.

"Since that time, we have had successful prosecutions in other municipalities as well," District Attorney Morrissey said. "When we dis-incentivize staged accidents, residents are safer. When we decrease insurance fraud in the marketplace, every policy holder benefits from lower rates."