



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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Press Release

Insurance Fraud Bureau, Norfolk DA Morrissey Team up to save consumers money



Insurance Fraud Bureau executive director Daniel Johnston, left, presents a 2018 grant check to Norfolk District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey to continue the partnership between those agencies and police to fight insurance fraud in Quincy and Randolph.

Insurance Fraud Bureau Executive Director Daniel Johnston met with Norfolk District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey in his Canton office this month to renew the successful partnership designed to suppress and prosecute automobile insurance fraud with Quincy and Randolph Police.

"The Insurance Fraud Bureau continues its close work with Norfolk District Attorney Michael Morrissey; currently 20 active insurance fraud cases have been referred, with more in the pipeline," said Johnston. "The IFB is seeing increases in insurance fraud related to overprescribing opiate pain pills, and charging them to insurance. But we are no longer facing the staged-accident rings and enterprises that prompted the inception of this partnership in 2005. We have to credit that change to our partners in law enforcement and the fraud investigators who work with them."

Morrissey pointed to the IFB program, which funds investigators and a prosecutor to assist detectives from Randolph and Quincy Police put together insurance fraud cases, as a positive example of a public-private partnership. "The staged accidents and bogus theft claims are not victimless crimes," District Attorney Morrissey said. "Any money that insurance companies pay out in fake claims is reflected in higher premiums. So the honest customer pays the bill."

The task force was founded in 2005, including first Randolph and then Quincy Police as well as target departments in other regions of the state. That year, the problem of staged thefts and fake accidents received widespread attention following a crash in Essex County staged for insurance purposes that left a Lawrence woman dead. The man who staged the crash was convicted of Manslaughter in Essex Superior Court.

"Criminals were exploiting a landscape at the time where what appeared to be simple accidents were often undetected fraud," Morrissey said. "Part of policing is adapting to new threats and problems. With the focus, training, and awareness present today, the schemes are declining."

"What was a growing problem has been stemmed and controlled," District Attorney Morrissey said. "I credit the partnership with the Insurance Fraud Bureau and the foresight of Randolph Chief William Pace and Quincy Police Chief Paul Keenan."