

**July 30, 2013**

**Police Commissioner, Raymond Kelly  
New York City Police Department  
1 Police Plaza  
New York, New York 10038**

**Dear Commissioner Kelly,**

**As president and founder of all former law enforcement volunteer organization, The Volunteer Homeland Reserve Unit (VHRU), a not for profit organization, I felt the need to write you this letter. The VHRU was founded in early 2002 as a result of the attack on our country on September 11, 2001.**

**The VHRU is comprised of over 300 members, many of which are retired New York City Police Officers. Our organization is located in Southern Nevada with teams in Arizona and most recently, San Bernardino CA.**

**I spent close to 24 years in the NYPD and retired as a Detective 2nd grade in 1987 and need your help to try to streamline the renewal process of our NYPD ID cards. Many of my colleagues from the NYPD are facing the extra burden and expense of flying back and forth to New York to renew their ID cards every 5 years. Most, if not all our members have an ID card under the Law Enforcement Assistance Act (HR 218) and as part of that federal law you must carry a valid Police ID along with your HR 218 card when carrying a weapon concealed.**

**In southern Nevada these HR 218 cards are issued by the Las Vegas Metro Police Department. The Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department has jurisdiction in Clark County where most of our NYPD members now reside. Every NYPD Officer who possess a HR 218 card must undergo a background check every year and be issued a new HR 218 card.**

**Nevada is one of the only states to incorporate the HR 218 law into its State Statute, recognizing this as a valid canceled carry permit as long as the individual complies with the requirements (have a valid Police ID card).**

**On behalf of all the retired members across the country, not just Nevada, a simple solution to address this problem needs to be developed. I would like to suggest the following for your consideration:**

- **Attached is a draft one page certification which has to be notarized authorizing the NYPD to conduct a criminal background check. This form will be signed by the retired member and along with the member's present ID card and mailed to Police Headquarters. Once your background check is completed and approved, a new ID card will be mailed to the retired member. We realize there is a small cost of mailing but this is something the department should absorb for all the years of service the member has given to the City and the State. If this is not acceptable the member can send a self stamped envelope to be used for his new ID card.**

**I welcome the opportunity to discuss this further with the appropriate individual within the department.**

**If this solution is not acceptable, I am willing to work with someone to come up with an alternative that's makes sense. Thank you for your consideration.**

**Yours truly,**

**Theodore V. Farace**