



17 March 2022

Chief Paul Neudigate,

Over the last several months the PBA has been receiving numerous concerns and complaints about the roll out of our new *Safariland* duty holsters as well as the product itself. I have no doubt that these concerns have been communicated to you, and that you have viewed the various "viral videos" circulating, so there is no reason to rehash each individual concern about the function of the rig. But some examples include:

1. Poor retention
2. Access to the weapons trigger by adversary
3. Difficulty to draw the weapon

At the heart of these concerns is a single issue. Officer safety. I'm sure that you believe there is no greater responsibility than this. Because of this commitment to officer safety, nothing should be placed above it. Unfortunately, the perception is that politics caused a rushed and hurried reaction that was created by the relationship between our holsters and BWC's thus resulting in an inferior product being provided to our officers. Training serves two basic principles, to increase proficiency and to build confidence. At the moment there is very little confidence in the *Safariland* holsters.

With these concerns in mind, and on behalf of our officers, I ask that you reconsider the *Safariland* product or consider making a secondary product available to our officers at no cost to them or at a very cost-effective price.

Respectfully,

Brian R. Luciano

President, Virginia Beach Police Benevolent Association

Vice President I.U.P.A Region 10