



August 12, 2013

Chief Matthew Gallagher
North Wildwood Police Department
901 Atlantic Ave.
North Wildwood, NJ 08260

Dear Chief Gallagher:

Thank you for your attention in looking into the unfortunate incident with Mr. Goering that occurred Thursday, August 8, 2013.

We recognize the difficulty that police personnel and business owners face when trying to determine whether a dog wearing a vest or harness is a certified service dog, and we understand the confusion and frustration that can result.

Unfortunately, we all agree there was a mistake when the summons was issued to Mr. Goering in this instance, and we were in contact with you as soon we became aware of the incident. We appreciate that the summons was voided once it was clear that Mr. Goering's dog was a service dog trained by a certified assistance dog school. It is our understanding that the police department has issued an apology to Mr. Goering.

We appreciate your interest in helping protect the access rights of people with disabilities, including veterans, and we are happy to provide training for your department that will accomplish this.

Our goal is to educate police departments, business owners, and the general public about the laws that protect the rights of individuals with disabilities to be accompanied by their service dogs anywhere that is open to the public. At the same time, we also want to show that pet owners who abuse these laws by purchasing therapy dog vests and patches adversely affect true service and guide dog users and cause additional confusion.

We welcome your invitation for training, and we are happy to assist you with anything pertaining to future issues or questions about accessibility laws.

Yours truly,

Wells B. Jones, FASAE, CAE, CFRE
Chief Executive Officer