

*Congresswoman Schmidt
Inquiry*

Anthony Serafini

From: James Burtle
Sent: Monday, November 20, 2006 3:15 PM
To: Diane Atkinson; Sandra Mata
Subject: Congressional from Congresswoman Jean Schmidt (control # 0602642)

Ms. Atkinson,

I called Linda Long of Congresswoman Schmidt's office to discuss the application, file number 0566-EX-PL-2006, mentioned in the Congressional letter. Ms. Long arranged a conference call with the applicant. I explained to Ms. Long and Mr. Watson, the applicant, that we have experienced a staff shortage combined with an increase in our receipt rate over the last year. That has resulted in a dramatic increase in normal processing times for experimental applications. I also explained that we have had to prioritize our applications. The top priorities are homeland security, safety of life and property, and weapons development for our troops. Mr. Watson's application does not fit into any of those priority categories.

Since Mr. Watson is only asking for six months, I asked him to request that we change the type of application from a License to a Special Temporary Authority (STA). The STA can be processed on a faster track. He will send me an e-mail making that request. I also explained to Mr. Watson that the type change would not guarantee that the application could be processed by his need date since it had to be coordinated outside this agency. They both seemed satisfied with the result of our conversation.

Jim Burtle

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