

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES**

I hereby submit my annual report of the Department of Weights and Measures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014. I was appointed Sealer of Weights and Measures in the town of Wellesley in January of 2011.

The Weights and Measures Department is required by state statute to inspect all weighing and measuring devices in the town of Wellesley each year. In FY2014, the Department inspected 443 weighing and measures devices, including price verification scanning audits. These included: retail scales, heavy capacity scales, gasoline dispensing meters, weights, fuel oil delivery meters, timing devices, and reverse vending machines. In addition, besides enforcing the regulations in regard to scanning, item pricing, unit pricing, and the motor fuel sales act, the Department continued to check random weight packages in stores, and price signs at gasoline service stations. The Department collected \$12,248.00 from inspection and sealing fees during 2014.

The Department issued 3 civil citations in FY2014 for the following weights and measures violations: pricing errors (scanning), item pricing, and price misrepresentation. The total fine amount was \$ 900.00 for FY2014. In addition, the Department also issued a number of warning letters for weights and measures violations. The Department will continue to enforce the weights and measures regulations in order to protect the businesses and consumers in the community and “keep the playing field level”.

The Department during FY2014 saved consumers and businesses in Wellesley well into the tens of thousands of dollars by conducting both mandated and spot inspections. This is in addition to the fees and fines collected for the town. Errors were found and corrected which resulted in sufficient savings to consumers. These savings are often overlooked by the community, but they are real. The consumer, or in some cases the business, benefited immediately from that adjustment. Every fuel dispenser was inspected last year in Wellesley and adjustments to fuel dispensing meters were made when necessary.

The Department checked 550 items in local retail stores to ensure that they scanned correctly. The Department found that 98.18 % of items checked were correct, 0.18 % were under-priced, and 1.64 % were over-priced. This number, for the first time, is over the 98% accuracy (correct) rate required by National Institute of Standards and Technology. This number has been improving each year.

All testing equipment was certified by the state Division of Standards Laboratory in Needham, Massachusetts. All weights, test measures, etc now have traceability to the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), formerly the National Bureau of Standards, United States Department of Commerce.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jack Walsh, Sealer of Weights and Measures