



James Gardiner, Director
Molly Bish Center/EZ-ID Initiative
Anna Maria College
50 Sunset Lane
Paxton, MA 01612

April 26, 2012

Dear James Gardiner,

Forensic Archaeology Recovery (FAR) is a non-profit volunteer organization whose mission is to provide technical assistance for locating and recovering evidence in unresolved cases, particularly missing and unfound children, adults, and the elderly. FAR is also dedicated to assist, at the invitation of local, state, or federal agencies in the documentation and recovery of human remains and associated personal effects or other materials at multiple-fatality disaster sites. Perhaps you are familiar with the work that FAR did in the aftermath of the Station Night Club fire in February of 2003. Adhering to protocols determined by the State Fire Marshall's Office, materials that were excavated by FAR were entered into a valid chain of custody for victim identification through the Medical Examiner's Office in Rhode Island.

All recoveries utilize appropriate methods of both the archaeological and forensic sciences, which ensure legal and judicial credibility for any and all recoveries. These undertakings are, first and foremost, to assist in bringing a measure of comfort to relatives and friends of missing individuals. We are also dedicated to providing assistance at disaster sites in the recovery of personal effects or human remains to aid in the process of closure and healing for those individuals left behind. All FAR members are trained archaeologists, anthropologists, law enforcement officers, private investigators, or other specialists, such as divers. These members bring their expertise to bear on missing person cases, search and recovery operations, or disaster recovery operations.

As the Director of FAR, I am writing this letter in support of the efforts that the Molly Bish Center has proposed in the furtherance of the EZ-ID program. The idea of changing the number of digits in the license plate arrangement is simple, yet brilliant and will have a significant impact on an observer or victim of a crime being able to recall these characters. By reducing the number of characters and their arrangement, the number of possible suspects will also be reduced. Given that 75% of all crime involves a motor vehicle in some way, the legislative initiative of EZ-ID will significantly increase the ability of law enforcement to establish a connection between the vehicle and the criminal. The power of this initiative should not be underestimated and action should be taken to put this initiative into law. The time has come to do what is necessary to assist in the solution of more crimes; EZ-ID is just that solution.

Sincerely,

Ann Marie Mires

Ann Marie Mires, PhD
Director, Forensic Archaeology Recovery