



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES & PUBLIC PROTECTION
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

February 17, 2023

Appropriations Committee Public Hearing

Good afternoon Senator Osten, Representative Walker, and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee. I am James Rovella, Commissioner of the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection. I appreciate this opportunity to appear before you today.

I would like to begin by saying that we fully support Governor Lamont's recommended budget as outlined and are grateful for the resources provided to the department and the first responder community.

Included in the Governor's proposed budget is continued funding for 3 State Police Trooper Trainee Classes over the biennium. As we continue to rebuild the State Police workforce, these classes are vital to replenishing our sworn personnel. We thank Governor Lamont for his continued support of additional Trooper Trainee classes.

Governor Lamont's proposed budget also includes funding for a Data Scientist position to analyze all data coming into the Department, providing a comprehensive look at data across all DESPP Divisions. Funds are also provided to the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST) for a Division Director to focus on certification and accreditation; and POST will also receive funding for the maintenance of a new training management system.

Finally, the Governor's proposed budget allocates \$1.5 million in federal ARPA funds to support phase 2 of the clean slate implementation project.

Building upon the hard work of DESPP's 6 divisions, I am confident that we are positioned to make the very most of the assets provided in the Governor's budget proposal.

Thank you and I am prepared to answer any questions you may have.

