

New Britain Racial Justice Coalition
New Britain, Connecticut
An Act Concerning Police Accountability, LCO# 3471

Dear Connecticut Legislators,

We are the New Britain Racial Justice Coalition. We are a community organization based in New Britain, CT focused on eradicating structural racism. We are writing to share **our support** for “An Act Concerning Police Accountability.” Specifically, we are writing to support the following:

- Granting power that allows municipalities to establish Civilian Review Boards with Subpoena powers.
- Outlawing police searches without probable cause, even if the person consents to the search
- Outlawing police officers from asking for any documents (such as green cards, and other immigration documents) other than a driver's license during traffic stops
- Mandating a duty to intervene if a police officer witnesses another officer using excessive or illegal use-of-force
- Ending qualified immunity for officers who violate people's civil rights
- Banning stop-and-frisk in Connecticut
- Demilitarizing of Connecticut police departments, including the disposal of all military equipment currently held by police departments
- Requiring that police officers to prominently display their badge

We also want to highlight the components of the bill we disagree with, which include:

- Increasing funding for police departments, whether municipal or state. We support the immediate defunding and divestment from police departments and reallocation of these resources for social services
- Adding social workers to police departments. The current bill calls for a study be conducted by departments on this matter. Social workers should be used for certain emergency/mental health calls but they should not work under police departments
- The overrepresentation of police officers and politicians on the Police Officer Standards and Training Council. They make up 12/20 of the Council's membership. This council should be dominated by civilians not politicians or police officers.

Thank you for your time.

Best,
New Britain Racial Justice Coalition