

## OPPOSE LCO 3471 - AN ACT CONCERNING POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY

To all; I have been a police officer for 23 years in Ansonia, and served honorably in the United States Marine Corps prior to that. In total, I have over 25 years of experience in Law Enforcement. This will become an important point as you read on.

At the time I was hired as a police officer, I had only a handful of college classes under my belt. I continued going though, taking as many classes as possible while working over the course of 6 years, to earn a bachelor's degree in Law Enforcement Administration, with a minor in International Security, from the University of New Haven. I graduated Summa Cum Laude with a GPA of 4.12 from one of the most esteemed Law Enforcement centered universities in the country, if not the world.

I write to you today with a heavy heart. I see nothing good coming from even the idea of LCO 3471 and I stand in strong opposition to it. I ask that you do the same and implore you to use your legislative prowess to ensure that this never gets passed. This is a defining moment for you, as our elected representatives, to ask exactly what type of policing society wants. I assure you that passage of this proposed bill will only further erode the safety of our communities and citizens. More importantly, passage of this bill will ensure what I asked you to make a mental note of earlier - you will lose police officers with decades of experience in an instant. As I write this, I am currently able to retire with a full and immediate pension. I do not have to go - for I am only 45, but I ask you if you want to lose thousands of officers across the state with the same experience and time dedicated to this profession as I have?

I stand in strong opposition to any excessive use of force, especially the likes of which has brought our country and profession to this current climate. However, hundreds of thousands of police interactions every day DO NOT end with any force used, and that is by far a better indicator of how well we do in-fact police with the dedication that we have and the current laws we adhere to. I believe that a vast majority of silent Americans are standing in support of us at this very second but are likely very scared to speak out. You need to be their voice.

There are far too many points in this bill to adequately address. I know one thing though, we will put ourselves in harm's way to protect others, until you tell us not to. This bill will tell us exactly that. This bill will affect your families and those of your colleagues in the CGA, when you call 911 and need us there. I ask you, why does the Capitol Police exist, if not for your very protection while you are working? Why is the Governor protected by armed State Troopers? Those are rhetorical questions.

You must decide what type of Police Officers you want to run into the gunfire that is tearing up our neighborhoods, or in the next active shooter situation in our children's school, or spouse's place of work. Society already asks the impossible of us, and yet we deliver honorably every day. You must ask what type of seasoned, experienced investigators you want investigating the most heinous of crimes. You must be willing to lose all of that if you allow this law to pass. You are voting on the future of civility and

protection, not the accountability of my sisters and brothers who put their lives on the line every day for the communities we serve.

I cite this from an article published earlier this year in Police One magazine: "If you recruit well, conduct thorough background checks and train constantly, you can have a human with a kind heart and good ethics who is willing to fight hard, be uncomfortable and even get hurt for you.

You can have a human who tries. You can have someone who struggles, who sometimes fails, who gets better with time and experience and who has setbacks.

But you can't have perfection. In fact, you can break perfectly good humans by insisting they be something they can't be – things no one can be.

Decide now that as long as cops get recruited from the human race, they're going to be exactly human, with everything that means. The rest of society is also human, after all." (<https://www.policeone.com/public-perception/articles/a-letter-to-the-american-public-why-you-must-decide-what-you-want-from-cops-d4qW0mL97LU0w5eX/>)

You can, however, have people who *strive* for perfection, knowing it is an unattainable but noble goal. That's how you become a Marine, earn a 4.12 GPA, and honorably serve for over 25 years in Law Enforcement.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Harte

Police Detective