

TESTIMONY OF Brittney Lynn Yancy WITH COMMENTS ON DRAFT LCO #3471 AN ACT
CONCERNING POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY
JULY 23, 2020

Dear Senator Winfield, Representative Stafstrom, Ranking Members Kissel and Rebimbas,
and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Brittney Yancy and I live in Vernon, Connecticut. I write as one of three Greater Hartford Ambassadors to the United State of Women, a national non-profit organization committed to an intersectional movement for full gender equality. I am also a member of CT Black Women and a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., the first Black sorority that has been implementing social justice and civil rights initiatives since our founding in 1908. I submit this written testimony in support of LCO No. 3471, An Act Concerning Police Accountability. I write to demand this committee ensure accountability, and divestment and reinvestment in community programs that bridge the gap between communities of color and the police. This bill is part of a much longer process to undo the harm of state-sanctioned violence and criminalization of Black and Brown people. This bill is the start of building an equitable system where every resident in Connecticut is treated as a human, and has the full embrace of democracy. There are critical measures that justly eliminate the criminalization, harm, and violence that disproportionately impact Black, Indigenous, and Brown people, but more work needs to be done.

This bill outlines critical steps forward towards police accountability, which I support. But, I want to address certain provisions that require changes before intersectional transformative justice can be fully realized. I support the full recommendations outlined in the statement of the ACLU-CT. Specifically, I support Section 41 of the bill, which disallows civil rights violations by police officers who deprive people or classes of people of equal protection, equal privileges and immunities of state law and constitution. Qualified immunity continues to create a barrier for harmed communities to seek justice for egregious acts of misconduct committed against them. All three of the organizations I represent are committed to ending police violence and racism in policing in all forms, and very specifically, the state-sanctioned gendered anti-Black violence against women and girls, transgender women, and non-binary individuals. I urge you to listen to the call of communities that have been marching for months, seeking accountability for police actions. Justice without redress is no justice at all.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brittney Yancy, Greater Hartford Ambassador, United State of Women
Vernon, CT 06066