

TESTIMONY
LCO# 3471 – AN ACT CONCERNING POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY

I would like to provide this written testimony with respect to the Police Accountability Bill currently being considered. There are aspects of the Bill I believe would be beneficial and some aspects that would not be productive, I have outlined some of these points below.

1. Military surplus equipment. I believe there is a fundamental misconception as to the benefit of this program. This program provides local law Enforcement with tools that help Police fulfill their mission. Night Vision Equipment, Binoculars, protective equipment etc. With respect to armored vehicles it should be clear that these armored vehicles have NO weapon systems in them and have no offensive capabilities. These vehicles are used during active shooter scenarios where some individual is hurt and has to be removed from the line of fire. These armored vehicles act as a shield where Police Officers can safely take refuge to get to a wounded Citizen or officer. I don't understand why anyone would want to strip our Law Enforcement officers with this protection.
2. Banning Choke Holds. I graduated from the Connecticut Police Academy in 1980. I retired as Chief of Police of the Enfield Police Dept, and in my entire career I do not believe any officers were taught how to apply a choke hold. If some Police Departments did use choke holds, then I see no harm in enacting a ban. I believe the Public should be informed how rare this tactic was taught or used.
3. I like the idea of a Special Inspector General to Investigate Police involved shootings. I also believe that the single biggest barrier for Police Chiefs to rid their Departments of Individuals who should not be Law Officer Officers is the State Board of Arbitration and Mediation. This Board has in my experience given officers back their job when I believe the severity of their actions require their Dismissal. I would advocate the in cases of Police Officer dismissals the appeal would be directly to the Inspector General's office or the Police Officers and Standards Committee to reinstate or uphold the termination,
4. My last point is that with all the talk about increased training the single best tool I had as Chief of Police was my Department's involvement with the National Accreditation agency C.A.L.E.A the Commission for the Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies. This certification ensured that as a Police Department all of our Training, Policies, Standards of Operation, Transparency, and Documentation met the best practices suggestions of National Experts. I advocate strongly that all Police Departments be compelled to achieve Accreditation first at the State Levels and then the National Levels with CALEA. This accreditation would address in a comprehensive way many of the concerns that are being discussed. I am so proud that the Enfield Police Department has been Nationally Accredited since 1996.

Thank You For your Time
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