

To Whom It May Concern

On Sunday, the NYPD reported on the murder of Davell Gardner, a 1-year old attending a sidewalk cookout in Brooklyn with his family. Is this what we want to become the new normal in our region and state? Lawlessness is not the answer to "reforming" our police departments, instead comprehensive conversations are a much better place to start. Nobody, whether in Brooklyn, Stamford, Bridgeport or Hew Haven should have fear for their life attending a family picnic with young ones.

If some Connecticut legislators follow through on threats to "defund the police," what will that mean for our towns? Should we expect a similar 21% spike in homicides and 46% increase in shootings that the big city to our south has experienced over the past 6 months?

Our elected officials are misguided to believe that a new Connecticut rule to restrict policing and add new costs on our police departments is being proactive. Instead, proposed legislation, LCO No. 3471 is simply a rush to legislate in an election year without first gaining proper input from stakeholders.

Sincerely,

Chris Festa  
Stratford, CT