

To the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Dana Astmann, and I live and vote in New Haven. I am writing to urge you to include the following amendments in LCO #3471, An Act Concerning Police Accountability (ACPA) in order to strengthen the bill further:

**Stronger Use of Force Standard:** The bill should require that any use of deadly force is “necessary,” rather than the current standard of “objectively reasonable.” The use of force standard should include an officer’s entire engagement with a person rather than just the moment when severe or deadly force was used. Did the officer attempt to de-escalate the situation? Did the officer use force in proportion to the seriousness of the situation? What initially led to the encounter, and was the use of force necessary at all?

**Inspector General Hiring & Firing:** The Inspector General should be appointed by the Criminal Justice Commission directly. The proposed bill includes the creation of an Inspector General to investigate incidents of police use of force, but leaves the hiring and firing of that position to the Chief State's Attorney at will — a conflict of interest that we must avoid.

**Public Right to Record Police:** Ban police officers from taking cell phones or other recording devices without a person's consent or warrant. Give civilians the right to sue police departments if they take or destroy these devices without cause, as is exemplified in Colorado law.

**Police Failure to Record:** Even when police departments have adopted body and dash cameras, it happens far too often that use-of-force incidents do not get recorded. The bill should establish a rebuttable presumption that, if there is no police video recording of an incident, the officer is presumed to have used excessive force.

This is a moment in Connecticut’s history that we cannot let pass by. You have an opportunity to pass strong legislation that will make Connecticut safer for all of our residents, especially our residents of color.

Thank you,  
Dana Astmann  
156 Bellevue Rd  
New Haven, CT 06511