

Dear Judiciary Committee,

I am a Police Officer with the Middletown Police Department. I have taken the time to read the Police Accountability Memorandum, and reflect on its contents. Although I encourage any effort to build connections and trust with the community, I cannot support “reform” in areas that, based on my professional experience, I know would lead to a drop in quality of policing, and worse, harm to innocent persons. Many suggested changes would deter quality candidates from joining, or remaining, in police forces. The outcome would be less competent police, less pro activity, and a surge in violence and victimization.

I’ve attached a PDF file containing Attorney Elliot Spector’s response to the memorandum. Spector, a recognized expert on the topic of law enforcement, can speak to the glaring issues with the suggested reforms better than I.

After conferring with my colleagues, I’ve determined the following recommended changes within the memorandum to be potentially harmful to the public, and police:

1. Task force to study necessity of police at road construction sites.
2. Removal of Qualified Immunity.
3. Removal of consent searches for motor vehicles and persons.
4. Changing the Graham shooting standard.
5. The removal of equipment donated by the military.
6. The creation of an Inspector General to investigate misconduct.
7. Giving subpoena power to Civilian Review Boards.

I ask that you please hear the voices of those who risk their lives to passionately serve their communities every day. Take the time during these emotionally charged days to stop, review the facts (eloquently presented by Spector), speak to officers, and make conclusions based on said facts, evidence, and research.

Feel free to reach out to me at this email or by phone, 860-638-4000.

Respectfully,

Sgt. Daniel Petrulis
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