

To Members of the CT of the General ASsembly Judiciary Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on proposed policing legislation. I am a retired police officer having 37 plus years in the field serving in every rank, my last twelve years as Chief of Police. I have also served as interim Chief of Police and served as a consultant to many police and security agencies, many during a crisis in leadership. I believe policing has done many things right and many things wrong. What has transpired around the country with police conduct in such a horrible way has made me very sad. I honestly can't say this was a surprise to me. Having worked in the field I know where the problems are. There is not enough time here to get to it all but let's start where no one has noted so far: The one size fits all police unions in CT. Everyone from officer to captain is in the same union, sometimes even higher ranks. I am supportive on police bargaining units, they advocate for police staff when no one wants to. Putting everyone in the same union does not help this process, do we honestly expect a supervisor in the same union to recommend any disciplinary action of a subordinate? I can tell you it doesn't work that well even though everyone will deny it. Why not let each rank be in a separate union or no union at all? The lines are blurred and should be cleared. Give the police the tools they need to hold themselves accountable. Ask the CT Police Chiefs Association how they feel about this.

Jim Perrotti

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