

Testimony of Patrolman John Perry
LCO 3471, An Act Concerning Police Accountability

My name is John Perry. I am a Patrolman for the Bridgeport Police Department and a member of the Bridgeport Police Union. I would like to comment on LCO 3471, An Act Concerning Police Accountability

I have worked in Bridgeport for 27 years. This is the city I grew up in. I have a passion for serving the community. A large part of my job is investigating automobile fatalities and serious crashes. Right before 9-11, my sister died in a car accident. That tragedy made me want to help families to deal with grief and to help answer the unanswered questions.

I've also worked in many capacities, including DARE officer and the Community Reclamation Project, a program that allows officers to work with inmates on community improvement projects.

I can tell you firsthand that not every police officer or agency reacts and behaves the way those Minneapolis police officers did on that terrible day in May. I understand and embrace the importance of building stronger bonds with community we serve. Now, more than ever, we can all benefit from listening to and learning about each other.

I am concerned that parts of this proposed legislation that will negatively impact police officers, especially with regard to harming due process. Restricting our workplace rights should not be a casualty of protecting our communities.

Thank you.

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