

My name is Laurie Sweet and I'm a Hamden resident.
I am writing in support of the police accountability in full.

On April 16, 2019, Hamden officer Eaton and Yale officer Pollock fired on 2 unarmed youth in New Haven. To-date, over a year later, Pollock works for Yale PD and Eaton is on-leave. The union filed an injunction so that the Hamden Police commission couldn't hear Eaton's testimony and cannot fire him for breaking policy and procedures. The state filed criminal charges. Those are separate from policy and procedures and should not have to wait until the case has been heard.

Why does the police union supersede the local town charter? Because Police unions have WAY TOO MUCH POWER. I don't elect the police union. This bill finally makes the police, supposedly here to serve and protect everyone, accountable.

You have already heard from a number of police that this bill takes away their rights. If the police follow their own policies, this bill is NO THREAT TO THEM.

Why are the very people, who are meant to enforce the law, routinely acting ABOVE IT?

Connecticut police have terrorized our neighborhoods especially those where Black and Brown people live. They make money doing so. They get away with it and then they go BACK TO WORK.

NO MORE STATE SANCTIONED VIOLENCE AND MURDER

Police cannot police themselves. Internal affairs investigations are immoral and ineffective. Do you know any other profession where you get to decide whether or not you broke department rules?

Whether or not YOU get to keep your job?

We need CRBs in every town with subpoena power. Our police commission in Hamden is a powerless farce of accountability. They haven't met since last February and they take the summers off, refusing to hear citizen complaints for months. Do police take summers off? The Hamden police commission claims to be the judge and jury, but the Hamden commission has done nothing for 14 months.

Police accountability must take place 24-7, every day of the year.

In closing, where was the DUE PROCESS for all the people murdered by police in Connecticut whose names are written on the attached banner? We can and should legislate accountability for those who protect and serve.

Thank you for your time,
Laurie Sweet