

My name is Leora Matison and I live & vote in Southbury, CT. I am writing in support of LCO #3471: An Act Concerning Police Accountability (AACPA) with amendments.

I support:

- Allows Towns/Cities to Form Civilian Review Boards w/Subpoena Power
- Outlawing Police Search w/o Probable Cause, Even w/Consent
- Outlawing Police Officers from Asking for any Documents (Green Card/Immigration Docs) Other than Driver's License at Traffic Stops
- Mandating Duty to Intervene if Officer Witnesses Excessive Force
- Ending Qualified Immunity for Officers who Violate Civil Rights
- Bans Stops and Frisk
- Demilitarization of CT Police Depts, Including Disposal of Existing Equipment
- Require Officers to Display their Badge

I disagree with:

- Increasing Funding for Municipal/State PDs
- Adding Social Workers to PDs. Social Workers Should NOT Work Under Police Departments
- Police and Politicians Make up 12/20 Members of Police Officer Standards and Training Council. Council Should be Dominated by Civilians not Politicians/Police

This is just a starting point and doesn't divest from policing or reinvesting in the community and also 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.

Police violence, particularly against Black and Hispanic people, has been an ongoing problem that neither party has so far been willing to do anything about. Here in Southbury we see it happened on the news and think it's a problem only in cities, but it's happened in Southbury and other smaller towns too. And for the safety of both our Southbury neighbors and fellow human beings, we should work to prevent it happening anywhere in the state. Police officers aren't inherently bad, but they aren't inherently good either, they are human beings like everyone else. When police officers express human failings of violence, bigotry, bullying, or not being willing to stand up to their co-worker's wrong doing, both justice and frankly law and order depend on their being held accountable for their actions like everyone else.

Thank you for your service of our state,

Leora Matison
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