

Dear Lawmakers:

Thank you for taking the time to hear my concerns.

As a practicing attorney in the area of criminal law I have observed quite a bit of police over reaching in my career. As a result I make the following suggestions for reform:

1. Outlaw police searches without probable cause. Any consent of the individual should be in writing. A simple form could be created that indicates the individual understands they are not required to consent but do so voluntarily;
2. Mandate a duty to intervene if a police officer observes another officer violating someone's rights. And provide the intervening officer with whistle blower protection for their actions;
3. End qualified immunity for police officers that violate civil rights;
4. Mandate the creation of a Civilian Review Board in every jurisdiction. These boards should have the power to subpoena testimony and documents;
5. Police departments should not have or use military style equipment. We don't want them using this equipment on our citizens, our children, our neighbors;
6. In all but sensitive undercover work, police officers must prominently display their badge and other identifying information;
7. Mandate training in substance abuse and mental health so that police officers know how to deescalate and when to contact a mental health clinician;
8. Transfer some of the police budget to an independent mental health crisis team;

Thank you for your work on this very important issue

Lynn Alvey Dawson

Attorney At Law

365 Highland Avenue, Suite 102

Cheshire, CT 06410

Tel: 203-272-2944

Fax: 203-272-2813

lynn@dawsonlawct.com