

Dear Connecticut Legislators,

My name is Mark O'Brien and I live in Greenwich, CT. I am writing to express my support for LCO# 3471 "An Act Concerning Police Accountability." Specifically, I am writing to support the following and ask that amendments be made to further strengthen this bill:

1. Granting power that allows municipalities to establish Civilian Review Boards with Subpoena powers. (Note: as written, the bill currently says CRB's 'may' have subpoena power, not 'must'. That language is key).
2. Outlawing police searches without probable cause, even if the person consents to the search
3. Outlawing police officers from asking for any documents (such as green cards, and other immigration documents) other than a driver's license during traffic stops (note: as written, the bill currently says police can ask for other forms of ID if someone does not provide a license. This is an unsafe measure for the undocumented community).
4. Mandating a duty to intervene if a police officer witnesses another officer using excessive or illegal use-of-force
5. Ending qualified immunity for officers who violate people's civil rights
6. Banning stop-and-frisk in Connecticut
7. Demilitarizing of Connecticut police departments, including the disposal of all military equipment currently held by police departments Requiring that police officers to prominently display their badge
8. Stronger Use of Force Standard. The bill should require that any use of deadly force is 'necessary' rather than the current standard of 'objectively reasonable.' This standard should also include an officers' entire engagement with a person(s) rather than just the moment when severe or deadly force was used.

I also want to highlight the components of the bill I disagree with, which include:

1. Increasing funding for police departments, whether municipal or state. We support the immediate defunding and divestment from police departments and reallocation of these resources for social services
2. Adding social workers to police departments. The current bill calls for a study be conducted by departments on this matter. Social workers should be used for certain emergency/mental health calls but they should not work under police departments.
3. The overrepresentation of police officers and politicians on the Police Officer Standards and Training Council. They make up 12/20 of the Council's membership. This council should be dominated by civilians not politicians or police officers.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Mark O'Brien