

Good Afternoon Senator Duff,

I hope this finds you well. As always I thank you for your consideration for matters related to the state and your constituents. For me personally you have always responded quickly and sincerely. I appreciate that.

I write today with a sense of urgency as the topic of police reform is at the forefront of most everyone's mind. I urge you to read the below attachments from the Spector Criminal Justice Network. Eliot Spector is a leader in law enforcement training in the state and I am lucky enough to be affiliated with his consortium, especially since my retirement from the State Police last summer.

The below email and attachments highlight the misguided notion that the law enforcement community is in need of drastic reform. While it is true that improvements in many areas are needed, and being undertaken, the current proposals being considered will eviscerate Law enforcement in Connecticut. This is not hyperbole nor is it a defense of the officers who have tarnished the honor of officers throughout the state and the country.

The knee jerk reaction by a splinter of the populous should not be duplicated by the legislature merely to pacify them. Their desires go beyond police reform. They are dangerous and a threat to the citizens of the state, of which I write from that perspective more so than a former police official or current police trainer.

I am willing to continue to work for police accountability and high police standards. Especially surrounding the issue of qualified immunity, of which officers enjoy a much more limited scope than what is being reported, the Supreme Court has spoken.

It should not be legislated away for the mere purpose of quelling the voices of those who don't truly understand the concept, nor especially understand the sacrifice women and men of this State make donning a uniform and protecting them and their rights every day.

Drastic measures being called for will have devastating effects. This includes mass retirements from eligible officers, especially those executives who have been reforming police operations for the better part of the last 20 years; and to those suitable candidates who may seek employment elsewhere or give up on the profession entirely.

Attorney Spector summarizes all below. He offers strong, common sense alternatives to the proposals, as well as highlighting the work already being done, but unfortunately being overlooked by many.

I strongly encourage you to review and share with your colleagues in the Senate and the House before casting a vote that could endanger the safety of the citizens of this Great State. As always I am available And more than willing to assist you in this area of mutual concern. Especially in retirement but also as an active educator of current and future police officers, having the best policies will yield the best results for our future.

Sincerely,

Mark P. Sticca
(Captain, retired, Connecticut State Police)

Sent from my iPhone