

Judiciary Committee,

Concerns with this legislation:

- The legislation in general seems to be an answer to a problem that does not exist.
 - This is a non-issue for 99.99% of CT police officers and 100% of New Milford's!
 - Why do we have a perceived problem in certain communities?
 - Why is there no law proposed for how the police/public relationship is adversely affected when our legislature adopts harsh penalties for petty crimes?
 - Why is there no law proposed for how our adversarial legal system rewards prosecutors for overcharging individuals for petty offenses to force plea-bargaining to rack up a conviction record? This disproportionately affects minority communities.
 - Why does this law not punish a bigger problem of prosecutorial misconduct?
- Drug tests
 - Who administers?
 - Appeals Process for bad tests? According to the American Psychiatric Association, 5 to 10 percent of all drug tests may result in false positives. That's a lot of cops.
 - Exemptions for prescription medication?
- Who defines "discriminatory conduct" and "racial profiling"? They are both subjective terms.
 - According to 2017 FBI statistics Black Americans committed 53% of murders. How do you avoid racial profiling when searching for murderers?
- Who defines what a "periodic mental health assessment" is and how you pass it? Why do this with no proven record of abuse?
- Uniform statewide Crowd Management Policy. Policy should be different for different towns and circumstances. What is good for New Haven is not good for New Milford.
 - Why are local police not entitled to the same privileges and immunities as State Police members?
- Implicit bias is fabricated dogma from the intersectional left. There is no such thing. Nothing more than the woke religion writ large.
 - Lee Jussim Ph.D. in Psychology Today: "Almost everything about implicit bias is controversial in scientific circles. It is not clear, for instance, what most implicit bias methods actually measure; their ability to predict discrimination is modest at best; their reliability is low; early claims about their power and immutability have proven unjustified. And yet some colleges and corporations have been rushing to institute "implicit bias trainings" in attempts to reduce discrimination (attempts that are, in my view, misguided and unlikely to be effective)"
- The collective bargaining provisions may be more than it appears at first glance. Do the Unions have a position?
- "Efforts to recruit, retain, and promote minority police officers" is nothing more than racism - plain and simple. I want the best, not the lightest-skinned or most multi-lingual officers in our community. Color-blind selection is the only way to assure this.
- Civilian Review Boards. I am in favor of a Review Board or what used to be referred to as a Police Commission in the old days. That being said, some departments have issues with internal review but we cannot have the Civilian Review Board wielding more power than the Chief and his internal controls. I fear this shifts power to unaccountable civilians with an agenda.
- Social workers responding to certain police calls is absurd. Police already refer incidents to social workers when appropriate. If the legislature doesn't want an arrest for certain crimes then get them off the books!
- Prohibition On Consent Searches - a useless provision when cameras are used as someone can just say no.
- Prohibition on asking for non-driving identification or documentation. This seems especially dangerous as it does not allow for the officer to ask for identification if he suspects a passenger may be currently wanted for a previous crime.

- False Reporting Crimes with Specific Intent Based on Certain Characteristics seems ridiculous as this should apply in all instances. Why discriminate against whites?
- Justified use of deadly physical force and chokeholds. This seems like nothing more than a "gotcha" to sue an officer or town. Split second decisions may look very different days later.
- Officers' duty to intervene to stop use of excessive force. "Good Samaritan" laws never work because they are totally subjective. A lot of good officers may be collected up in this one.
- Recordkeeping - this looks like nothing more than a racial bludgeon divorced from criminal behavior.
- How are Inspectors General going to prosecute anything? This removes the need for them to be impartial. A very bad provision for the future.
- Civil cause of action against certain police officers. This is the most dangerous provision of all and should only be available against officers that committed a prosecutable felony during the course of their actions. Right now it is nothing more than a deterrence to join a Police Force.

Respectfully,
Michael Barnes
New Milford