

To whom it may concern:

Please except this written testimony regarding the Police Accountability proposed bill.

The concepts listed within the bill certainly makes sense on the surface but any actions taken should not be done by sacrificing the rights of due process of police officers serving in our communities. With 24 hour media and social apps, it is easy to lump every negative police encounter as the same, which is far from the truth. Every law enforcement encounter, pro or con is an encounter that is separate and unique and must be examined based on their unique facts and circumstances at that time. Law enforcement encounters are very situational driven and no two officers will handle a call for service the same. It is assumed that law enforcement training is the same nationwide, it is not. It is this point (training) that I would like to speak about.

It is my opinion that most of the issues relating to the need of police reform stem from the lack of the training within the police department starting at the academy as well as in-service training (professional development) specifically within the area of Crime Prevention/Community Policing. Over the past 10 plus years, the Police Officer Standards & Training Council and the State Police Training Academy has been decimated in funding, staff and training which has had a dramatic effect to the professional development of law enforcement officers across the board.

Most law enforcement leadership as well as community leaders understand and agree with the long established policing principles established by Sir Robert Peel in 1829 (Listed Below for reference) – in fact, communities that follow these principles have had great successes within their communities in lowering crime rates, increasing the health and wellbeing of the community and has improved police and community relationships despite being developed over 190 years ago.

Unfortunately, it is estimated that less then 8% of sworn law enforcement officers serving today in CT have had any formal training (outside the academy training) in the area of Crime Prevention/Community Policing which is the foundation of what policing is all about.

If the desire is to have law enforcement officers rise to a standard that we hold doctors and lawyers to, from a liability standpoint, then we need to be sure that the training they receive outside the initial training academy is offered at the same level as those from the professions previously mentioned. The issue at hand is not a desire to do the job right, it's the continued support in making sure we have the best trained law enforcement working in their communities.

Respectfully Submitted,

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### **Principals of Policing – Sir Robert Peel**

1. The basic mission for which police exist is to **prevent crime and disorder** as an alternative to the repression of crime and disorder by military force and severity of legal punishment.
2. The ability of the police to perform their duties is dependent upon **public approval** of police existence, actions, behavior and the ability of the police to secure and **maintain public respect**.
3. The police must secure the willing cooperation of the public in **voluntary observance** of the law to be able to secure and maintain public respect.
4. The degree of cooperation of the public that can be secured diminishes, proportionately, to the **necessity** for the use of physical force and compulsion in achieving police objectives.
5. **The police seek and preserve public favor**, not by catering to public opinion, but by **constantly demonstrating absolutely impartial service to the law**, in complete independence of policy, and without regard to the justice or injustice of the substance of individual laws; **by ready offering of individual service and friendship to all members of society without regard to their race or social standing**, by ready exercise of courtesy and friendly good humor; and by ready offering of individual sacrifice in protecting and preserving life.
6. The police should **use physical to the extent necessary to secure observance of the law** or to restore order only when the exercise of persuasion, advice and warning is found to be insufficient to achieve police objectives; and police should use **only the minimum degree of physical force which is necessary** on any particular occasion for achieving a police objective.
7. The police at all times should maintain a relationship with the public that gives the reality to the historic tradition that **the police are the public and the public are the police**; the police are the only members of the public who are paid to give full-time attention to duties which are incumbent on every citizen in the intent of the community welfare.
8. The police should always direct their actions towards their functions and **never appear to usurp the powers** of the judiciary by avenging individuals or the state, or the authoritatively judging guilt or punishing the guilty.
9. The test of police efficiency is the **absence of crime and disorder**, not the visible evidence of police action in dealing with them.