

**Testimony of Patrolman Arlindo Dos Santos**  
**LCO 3471, An Act Concerning Police Accountability**

Members of the Judiciary Committee: My name is Patrolman Arlindo Dos Santos and I work for the Bridgeport Police Department. I am also a member of the Bridgeport Police Union. I want to share some brief reflection as you debate LCO 3471.

My family moved to Bridgeport from the Cape Verde Islands when I was 12, so Bridgeport is my home city.

I've been on the force for less than four years. My previous job was a Store Manager at Stop & Shop. I had a great career ahead of me with Stop & Shop, but I needed to fulfill my dream of being a police officer.

My mission as a police officer is more than upholding the law. It's serving as a positive influence in our community. We as officers do so many helpful things that the people never see, whether it's helping kids out or getting homeless people food and shelter. We do it because we care.

Let me make it clear that no human being should be treated the way George Floyd was treated. That officer in Minneapolis made our jobs harder and tainted the shield.

This is a terrible time right now, and we need to figure out how to come together, and not apart. Passing legislation that diminishes our civil and workplace rights is not going to do that. In fact, it will make it harder to recruit and retain officers like me who followed their dream to serve and protect.

Thank you.

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