

Dear Legislators,

My name is Rosemary Romaniello and I live and vote in Norwalk. I am writing to urge you to pass LCO #3471 An Act Concerning Police Accountability (AACPA) with amendments. Unless police are held accountable for their actions, excessive-force will continue. Connecticut needs to create a database of excessive-force episodes, ban police choke holds, and mandate increased police training, especially de-escalation training.

Violence and brutality at the hands of law enforcement is an unacceptable violation of the public's trust. It is the obligation of law enforcement — whose professional duty it is to “protect and serve” the community — to de-escalate tension and to hold one another accountable. The overwhelming majority of police officers faithfully and bravely discharge their responsibilities, and no one resents a bad police officer more than a good police officer. Unfortunately, there are a handful of officers who abuse their positions.

I urge you to make LCO #3471 more effective. It also should require that any use of deadly force is “necessary,” rather than the current standard of “objectively reasonable.” The Inspector General, who will investigate incidents of police use of force, should be appointed by the Criminal Justice Commission directly. The bill should ban police officers from taking cell phones or other recording devices without a person's consent or warrant. Even with police body and dash cameras, too often use of force incidents do not get recorded. The bill should establish that, if there is no police video recording of an incident, the officer is presumed to have used excessive force.

Again, I strongly urge you as a Connecticut Resident to support and pass a strong Police Accountability bill during the Connecticut Special Session. You have an opportunity to pass strong legislation that will make Connecticut safer for all of our residents.

Thank you, Respectfully submitted,

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