

To Whom It May Concern,

I am aware that the Connecticut General Assembly is debating on LCO 3471, The Police Accountability Bill. The bill should pass in the Assembly because it will help ensure that law enforcement officers committed to avoiding any kind of abuse or oversteps their authority and if they do not honor the stated they will be held accountable.

Further, the bill would allow for the implementation of measures to protect our communities from abuse, systemic racial profiling, and discrimination. Notwithstanding the proposed changes contained in Bill LCO 3471 will prevent the "deadly use of force" which are critical for communities of color and gender. The changes in CGS 53a-22 will also address lethal force or firearms.

The following key highlights of the bill are critical and must be enacted immediately:

- Eliminate 'qualified immunity' for law enforcement. Police officers who commit civil rights violations would now be subject to civil liability themselves.
- Create a duty to intervene when a police officer witnesses another law enforcement officer using unreasonable, excessive, or illegal use of force.
- Create the figure of a fully independent Inspector General tasked with the responsibility of conducting investigations involved in the use of force cases.
- Give local police civilian review boards real teeth - and subpoena power.
- Requires police departments to get rid of their military-grade equipment within six months.
- Establish strict limits on traffic stops and searches, limiting the definition of what constitutes probable cause.

Remember Black Lives Matter!

Sincerely,

Sandra Bispham- Haywood