

Dear Connecticut State Representatives, Legislators and Whomever else it may concern,

I am a Police Sergeant with the City of Ansonia Police Department. I am also the current President of the Ansonia Police Union, Lodge #913 of the Fraternal Order of Police. I have been a police officer for the past 35 years and upon reviewing Police Bill LCO 3471, I would like to offer my professional observations and predictions, based upon my many years of training and experience.

First, to be clear, I am OPPOSED to this bill in it's entirety, under the current proposed language.

I view the bill as nothing more than a knee-jerk reaction to issues brought forth by a radical, marxist militant organization, which was born from a proven lie. This proposed bill would signal statewide armageddon, not only for the Law Enforcement profession, but for the State of Connecticut as a whole. Pandering to the radical demands of this criminal organization will facilitate the demise of Law Enforcement, the rule of law and the overall safety and welfare of the State. Following is my simple breakdown of my beliefs:

Without proper protections and support of our Law Enforcement personnel, we will see an historic decline in the number of qualified candidates in the field. In fact, no one in their right mind would apply for a position in the Law Enforcement field. No one with a family, a home or any financial responsibilities will consider getting into the profession, for fear of losing everything because of political irresponsibility. We have already seen a dramatic decline in qualified applicants in recent years. This will expand exponentially if this bill is passed. Anyone eligible for retirement, or even close to retirement eligibility, will run for the door, creating a mass exodus that will leave gaping holes in police protection. The State's statutory responsibility and Municipalities' statutory responsibility to provide safety and security for their citizens would not change and therefore the only foreseeable solution would be to lower applicant standards so that Police forces could still be staffed. The end result would be hiring what would normally be considered unqualified people, to fill these massive holes.

Next, the United Supreme Court has ruled upon, and set in stone, laws that govern police action. The State's attempt to override the Supreme Court's decisions will certainly spell disaster for The State. Any Police Officer that would be sanctioned, disciplined or fired under this new bill would certainly have grounds to bring action against the State, directly to the United States Supreme Court, and when successful, because there is ample case law defined by the Supreme Court, it would cost the State's taxpayers an ungodly amount of money in reparations. The law abiding, tax paying, citizenry of the State would have to foot the bill for political irresponsibility.

The United States Supreme Court, the highest court in the land, has set law regarding Qualified Immunity that protects officials from harassment, distraction and liability when they perform their duties

reasonably. The "Reasonable Test" has been litigated many times and has been upheld by the Supreme Court time and time again. To place the decision of whether or not an officer's actions were reasonable on civilians that don't know which bathroom to use, is ludicrous!! People that have no clue what it means to have to make a life and death decision in the blink of an eye shouldn't be part of the equation. This also goes for "Civilian Review Boards". Most civilians have no clue what is going on in the world around them and their sense of security is due mostly to the diligent Police Officers that are out there on the front line putting their lives at risk every day to protect and serve them. Ignorance is bliss. Without Qualified Immunity, I ask you, WHO, in their right mind, would want to become a Police Officer?

The section of the bill dealing with Military Equipment is also troubling. Just a few examples on this section, just to enlighten. If Police Departments are made to return all Military aquired equipment, THAT equipment would have to be replaced by taxpayer's money. Shoreline Police Departments that have aquired boats from Military programs would now have to buy boats. Or, would you rather tell a family that their missing loved one cannot be searched for out on Long Island Sound because there are no boats to do so? Or that we cannot search the woods for a lost hiker because we had to return the Night Vision and Heat Detection equipment, because the new bill said so?? It is NOT rocket science! Why does COMMON SENSE escape people that SHOULD have an abundance of it!!

I will not go into every section of the proposed bill, because there is a plethora of stupidity in every section. Charles Dickens said it best in his writing of the classic "A Tale of Two Cities". Dickens wrote, "The needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few, or the one". Pandering to the lawless insanity and personal agendas of radical groups that have no care for society, or this great country, (The FEW) tells the normal, law abiding, hard working, tax paying citizens of this once great State, (The MANY) that no one cares about them, or about the Law Enforcement officials who do risk their lives every day to protect them.

For the sake of all involved, DO NOT pass this bill.

Respectfully,

Sgt. Vincent A. Orlando

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