



CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF POLICE

AFSCME COUNCIL 15

AFL-CIO

290 Pratt Street, Meriden, Connecticut 06450
Telephone: 203-237-2250 Fax: 203-237-2262
www.CTCOP.org



President
PAUL ARIOLA
Waterbury

Secretary
ANTHONY LEGNANI
New Britain

Treasurer
KARL MURPHY
Danbury

Vice Presidents
JAMES BATTISTO
Bristol
WALTER CASEY
West Haven
DEAN FORIER
New London
PATRICK GAYNOR
Meriden
GARY GIBSON
Manchester
ALBERT HARRISON
Enfield
WILLIAM JENNINGS
Stratford
MARC LEPORE
Norwalk
JEFF MATCHETT
Milford
PAUL RENSHAW
East Lyme
SEAN RONAN
Bridgeport
ANTHONY ZONA
New Haven

Executive Director
JAMES E. HOWELL

Staff Attorneys
ERIC R. BROWN
KENNETH DeLORENZO
HARRY B. ELLIOTT, JR.
ROBERT MURRAY

Legislative Lobbyist
THOMAS CAROZZA

Administrative Assistants
DEE CAPONE
MARCIE KARLINS
STEPHANIE TROCCIA

Assistant to Treasurer
MARGE BOISSONNEAULT

February 27, 2006

Testimony of Eric R. Brown, Staff Attorney of Connecticut Council of Police Unions AFSCME/ AFL-CIO, in Opposition to;

Raised Bill No. HB 5210 An Act Concerning Enforcement of Speeding and Traffic Control Signal Violations.

We are opposed to H.B. 5210 for a number of reasons. First, the implementation and utilization of these cameras presents a great expense to the taxpayer, with a limited law enforcement purpose. Rather than spend our scarce resources on cameras designed to enforce limited traffic laws, we are in favor of utilizing available funding for the hiring of additional police officers on the streets, so that our crime-fighters can be utilized in the areas where they are most needed and can be of most service to the community.

Secondly, the proliferation of surveillance cameras raises great concerns regarding the civil liberties for all citizens. The cameras take photographs not just of an offending vehicles. They also photograph the occupants of a vehicle and the contents of a vehicle. The use of the cameras should raise serious issues regarding governmental interference into personal privacy matters, and an encroachment upon the civil liberties of our citizens.

Third, while we are certain that no human is infallible, we also must conclude that neither is machinery. In this regard, when the machinery malfunctions, and tickets are issued, who will be in a position to show that the machinery has malfunctioned? Only the ticket-issuing authority. This likely will lead to a greater contempt for and mistrust of law enforcement authorities, making it more difficult for police to perform their critical law-enforcement functions. Police officers are given certain discretion to determine when and how to enforce the law. In utilizing that discretion, they create trust within the community. Use of cameras will eliminate one of these important bridges to trust-building within the community and will ultimately hinder the law enforcement function of police officers.