

Support of House Bill 6674

When a Judicial marshal makes any type of an arrest i.e. Breach of Peace, the State Police can come in and say that it was not a valid arrest. This leads to a detaining issue. If the person in our custody is hurt while being subdued and is subsequently released by CSP, it opens the Judicial Branch to a lawsuit.

Whenever an arrest is made at a courthouse, a trooper has to be dispatched to that courthouse to finish the paperwork. This pulls a trooper off the highways and shortens their manpower on the roads.

The Judicial Marshals Department would not be subject to influences from the Judges and / or any other Judicial agency in regards to security. Like Judges refusing to leave the building during a Bomb Threat.

The Judicial Marshals functioning as a police agency is a separate entity. Does an arrest made by the Hartford Police Department get processed at the West Haven Police Department? The Marshals Department as a law enforcement agency should act as a fully functional and separate entity from the State Police. This will prevent any conflict of operations with the State Police, and will help expedite on-site arrests at the courthouse.

An example I'll give you is on Friday February 2nd, 2007, 9:20 Am, we made a firearm arrest at the Derby Courthouse. Marshal Merkle-Loso spotted a five shot, one round spent, 22 Revolver in a mans overcoat pocket. This man was here for a traffic violation. She called the Supervisor to the X-ray Machine. We checked it out and the supervisor said to arrest him. I handcuffed him, I read him his rights, I did the property forms. We did everything we are supposed to do. We called the State Police. The man told me his permit to carry was revoked two years earlier because he is a convicted felon. When the State Police arrived they said this Convicted Felon was wanted on Federal Drug Charges. They took custody of him from us and left the courthouse. On Monday this Convicted Felon was back because the State Police did not get him arraigned. So when he went before the judge it was over the 48 hours to be arraigned and he was released on a PTA. He was put back on the streets. When I gave him his overcoat back as he was leaving he joked to us and patted his breast pocket and said "Oooh what's this bulge in my pocket".

I'd like to end by saying that there were others that wanted to speak today but felt if they did they would be retaliated against. I want to say to all of you if I am retaliated against for speaking today, I will contact each and everyone of you for support in getting it stopped. Retaliation could mean anything from shift or post assignments to termination or rejection of a promotion. It is a shame that in this day and age a person not only needs to worry about a fair wage but also retaliation from higher ups when trying to improve the quality of our lives.