



## CONNECTICUT POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

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### Testimony to the Committee on Public Safety

February 3, 2009

#### Chiefs Anthony Salvatore & James Strillacci, Connecticut Police Chiefs Association

We support **SB #760, AAC School Crisis Response Drills and Fire Drills**. The bill strengthens CGS 10-231, by requiring a crisis drill every three months, rather than permitting it. It also provides for local law-enforcement input in the drill format and participation in the drill itself.

Years of mandatory fire drills have made fatal school fires as rare as polio. A horrendous series of school shootings demands an organized, trained response. This bill will help.

We support **SB #761, AA Creating an Enhanced 9-1-1 Service Database**. Technology exists to allow emergency services to notify great numbers of citizens expeditiously. This technology can be used to speed evacuation of an area facing a natural or man-made disaster, to instruct citizens to shelter in place against a chemical spill, to enlist aid in finding a missing child, an Alzheimer's patient, or a fugitive.

Effectiveness of such a system depends on an up-to-date database of telephone customers, such as is maintained for 9-1-1 service. Current law did not anticipate its use for a notification system; this bill will bring the law abreast of today's technology.

The bill has the potential to save many lives, and we hope you will approve it.

We oppose **HB 6285, AAC Fingerprint Collection**, which would prohibit a police department from limiting fingerprint service to its community's residents. In the current economy all municipalities are strapped for cash and most departments are being asked to cut expenses. Agencies must be free to provide or to limit non-emergency services as its budget requires.

We believe that any individual needing fingerprints should seek the services of the local department or state police troop which serves the town in which he lives or works. As a citizen or a taxpayer, he is free to express satisfaction with service, or the lack thereof, to the appropriate elected or appointed officials.

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