

HB 6562

To: The Members of the Public Safety Committee
From: Off. Adrian Stroud
Subject: The designation of land to be used for a Police Driver Training Facility.

March 3rd, 2009

I am proud to be a Connecticut resident and proud to be a Police Officer in Connecticut. Our state has a rich heritage of inventiveness and Yankee ingenuity. Our police training is considered to be among the very best in the nation. This is a tradition that we should strive to continue. I believe the Police Driver Training Facility envisaged by Lt. John McAllister is absolutely essential in providing much needed continual training for our state's Police Officers.

A Police Officer may never be called upon to draw the weapon on his hip that he trains with year in and year out. And yet, a Police Officer operates a potential weapon every minute he or she is on patrol. Our cruisers, thousands of pounds of metal, are required to operate at peak performance in the most adverse of temperatures, road conditions, lighting, visibility, and traffic. Police Officers are required to drive when even the State has closed its highways under Executive Order.

Police Officers must respond to accidents, and many other emergencies. Many times people's lives are at stake, gambling on our very arrival in a timely fashion. But, Police Officer's and civilian lives are also at stake when we approach these calls at high speed. Each year Police Officers and civilians are injured and killed in Police cruiser related accidents. In 2008 I was injured when my cruiser struck a metal cable strung across a roadway. I was nearly decapitated. I am still recovering from injuries I received in this

car crash. This drove the point home to me that life can be lost in an instant while driving, and injuries can last a lifetime.

I feel that the importance of continued driver training cannot be overstated. I know that the State of Connecticut is facing hard financial times. As Thomas Paine once said, "These are the times that try men's souls." However, I feel that the construction and operation of a Police Driver Training Facility, would be an outlay of dollars that would yield huge dividends in the future in the protection of our Police Officers and our citizens.

Thank You

Off. Adrian Stroud

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