

WATERBURY POLICE UNION LOCAL 1237

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Member of:
Connecticut Council of Police
Unions No. 15
Connecticut Coalition of Police
and Corrections Officers (CCOPCO)
Waterbury Coalition of Municipal
Labor Unions
Greater Waterbury Central Labor Council
American Federation of State, County
and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO
Connecticut State AFL-CIO

February 24, 2009

Dear Senator Stillman, Representative Dargan and members of the Public Safety and Security Committee,

My name is Gaetano Tiso. I am a member of the Waterbury Police Union and the Connecticut Council of Police Unions. I am canine handler for the Waterbury Police Department with my police canine, Rogan, a two year old German shepherd. I am a trained canine handler certified through the Connecticut State Police.

I am addressing you today in **SUPPORT of S.B. 908 AN ACT CONCERNING OFFENSES AGAINST POLICE CANINES AND VOLUNTEER CANINE SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAMS.** The objective of this bill is to impose penalties for the harassment or assault of a police canine or the interference with a volunteer canine search and rescue team or canine team. Currently, any person who assaults or harms a police canine in the performance of its duties could only be charged with cruelty to animals. This bill would allow municipal and state police officers to accurately charge suspects who commit crimes against police canines while they are in the performance of their duties.

The Connecticut Council of Police Unions, which represents over 4,000 sworn police officers in the State of Connecticut, endorses this bill.

Thank you for your consideration,


Gaetano Tiso