

Chairman and members of the Committee:

My name is Louise Astin. I am from Middletown; I am here to speak in support of Proposed Bill Number **HB5533** entitled: **An Act Concerning Local Appeals of Decisions of Traffic Authorities.**

One decision by our Traffic Authority (the Police Chief) has completely altered our lives for the worse. I am from Wesleyan Hills, which was one of the first large planned communities in the country with a total tax base of \$63,000,000.00.

During the past two or more years, residents in our neighborhood have been dealing with an ongoing and as yet unresolved situation involving a disputed decision of Middletown's Traffic Authority, the city's Police Chief. The decision in question is that of creating a No Parking zone over a short section of Long Hill Road that serves an area of about 200 condominium units. Each condo complex has limited guest parking. For well over 30 years, overflow guest parking was done on the west side of Long Hill Road with no apparent problems until the Middletown Police Chief moved into one of the condos, and ticketing of apparently legally parked vehicles. The situation has escalated to a point that the portion of Long Hill Road that serves the condo area is now a total No Parking zone with bright yellow painted curbs.

When the ticketing started, we began working with our City Councilman, David Bauer, to try to stop the ticketing and ultimately to try to stop the establishment of the No Parking zone. We met with Middletown Mayor Sebastian Giuliano on January 10, 2008. Mayor Giuliano assured us he would speak with the Police Chief, and he said he did not know why the Chief would make a problem where there wasn't one.

We brought the situation to the attention of former State Representative Ray Kalinowski, who talked with the Mayor and the Police Chief to no avail, and to the attention of State Representative Matt Lesser, also.

Chairman and members of the Committee:

My name is Arline Cardoso. I am from Middletown; I am here to speak in support of Proposed Bill Number **HB5533** entitled: **An Act Concerning Local Appeals of Decisions of Traffic Authorities.**

In addition to the following comments, I am in agreement with Louise Astin.

In addition to other activities, we attended, and continue to attend, meetings of both the Public Safety and Public Works Commissions. The Commissions are apparently sympathetic, but won't override the decision of the Police Chief. The Public Works Commission has proposed to widen parts of the road to provide some parking, at an estimated cost of \$60,000.00. Because of underground utilities, CL&P, AT&T and Comcast will have to relocate their wiring at an estimated cost of \$50,000.00. This proposal would change the beautiful country neighborhood as we have known it.

We are aware of State Statute 14-297 (6), which defines "Traffic Authority" and empowers municipalities to name a Traffic Authority.

Middletown city ordinance No. 285-8 defines the Middletown Traffic Authority to be "The Chief of Police of the City of Middletown."

In Middletown ordinance Chapter 23, Common Council, the duties and jurisdiction of the Public Safety Commission include being "advisory" to the Police Department.

Nowhere did I find any guidelines or provision of oversight for the Traffic Authority's taking action such as we are dealing with, let alone any way to appeal a Traffic Authority decision and **abuse of power and selective enforcement of applicable statutes.**

An appeals procedure is needed. We have utilized all possible avenues that were open to us, in meeting with the Mayor, working with our Councilman and with Representative Kalinowski and Representative Lesser, submitting a petition, and speaking at meetings of

Chairman and members of the Committee:

My name is Kathleen Dion. I am from Middletown; I am here to speak in support of Proposed Bill Number **HB5533** entitled: **An Act Concerning Local Appeals of Decisions of Traffic Authorities.**

I have only two comments.

First, I am in full agreement with the comments made by Louise Astin and Arline Cardoso.

Second, I believe there is a conflict of interest to have the Police Chief make this kind of arbitrary decision in the neighborhood where she lives.

Thank you for your time.