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March 3, 2009

Testimony in support of:

***Raised Bill No. 6562 AN ACT AUTHORIZING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A POLICE OFFICER TRAINING FACILITY.***

***Members of the Public Safety and Security Committee:***

Council 15 supports *Raised Bill No. 6562* for the training it would provide for the police officers of Connecticut. Legislation enacted in the past requires training be provided in police pursuits, however, available facilities just do not provide the level of training necessary to comply with the intent of that legislation. This bill would begin the process of acquiring a site for a suitable driver training facility.

A well thought out plan and report produced by Lieutenant John McAllister of the Ridgefield Police Department, a sworn officer with twenty-three years experience and a certified police driving instructor, details how such a facility would be designed, funded, and managed.

With the understanding that this is a time of economic stress on government finances, the cost of not acting could far exceed any cost associated with acquisition and construction of a facility, due to the potential liability to the state and municipalities associated with inadequate training of employees. Council 15 feels that Representative Bartlett's initiative will move us in the right direction and hope that you will keep this bill moving forward.