

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 **HB5256** 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

the Public Safety and Public Works Commissions. The people on an appeals board should be impartial outsiders, rather than coming from city government political insiders.

Because of City officials' shortsightedness and lack of study into the impact of the Police Chief's decision to prohibit parking on this section of Long Hill Road, a plethora of much greater problems now exists, such as parking in fire lanes and blocking entrance/exit driveways. Because there are no longer occasional parked vehicles on the road, our road has now become a speedway. Correction of the lack of parking will result in expense to the City of Middletown and to the utility companies which could have been avoided had sufficient inquiry been done.

In conclusion, some of the problems created are:

- Our property values have been diminished.
- Interaction with families and friends has been greatly impacted.
- Our quality of life has been stolen.
- It has worsened conditions on the road.
- Parking within our complex entrance and exit negatively impacts sightlines.
- Our area school no longer can use our road as an overflow. They now have taken to using our lawns and private parking spaces.
- Bright yellow curbs and possible cut outs for parking have and will alter our beautiful residential neighborhood as we have known it for over 30 years.
- State Statute #14-250 has not been uniformly enforced. In fact, it is not even uniformly enforced on our road.

An appeals process could have streamlined our efforts and hopefully make a difference in the future.

If you request, backup documents are available.

Thank you.