



HARTFORD POLICE UNION

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VICE PRESIDENT RICHARD HOLTON

Office of The Vice President

Statement of

The Hartford Police Union

To the

Public Safety and Security Committee

To Senator Stillman, Representative Dargan and members of the Committee on behalf of all of the members of the Hartford Police Union which is comprised of Patrolmen, Detectives, Sergeants, Lieutenants and Captains, we appreciate your dedication to the men and women who serve our community so unselfishly in raising *House Bill #5339*, An Act Imposing a Mandatory Minimum Sentence for Assault of a Public Safety, Emergency Medical or Public Transit Personnel.

Each day Police Officers across this State and Country come to work and put their lives on the line, during a traffic stop, special detail, civil unrest, responding to a domestic disturbance, dealing with a suspicious person or the handling and transportation of prisoners.

In the past several months there have been several serious assaults on police officers in the Capital City with the most recent being the shooting of Officer Michael Bodner. These recent incidents illustrate the danger of the police profession whether it's in an urban environment or in a suburban neighborhood.

According to the most recent Department of Justice report there were 58,792 Police Officers Assaulted and 41 Murdered while performing their duties in 2008.

Out of that 58,792 Officers Assaulted 1,762 were from New England and out of that 1,762 Officers Assaulted 757 Officers Assaulted were from Connecticut.

In 2008 The Hartford Police Department had 91 Officers Assaulted in the line of duty that makes up 12% of the 757 Officers Assaulted in Connecticut.



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In 2009 The Hartford Police Department had 81 Officers Assaulted in the line of duty this equates to approximately 20% of the Police Department that is actively engaged in field work.

It is a perception by my membership that the majority of them will not report minor assaults because they strongly believe that there will be no prosecution. They also believe that most of the individuals charged with Assault on a Police Officer will either have their charges reduced or even nollod.

Police Officers who are victims of Assaults are routinely not advised of their rights afforded to them as victims. Based on most estimates Police Officers who are assaulted are arguably one of the most pervasive victim classes in the country.

We want you to know that any comments or actions made by the public that advocate the assaulting or the killing of a police officer should not and cannot be tolerated by the very society we serve.

Our members are expected to confront and address many members of society whose conduct is resistant, cruel, brutal, sadistic, and violent. These individuals face what most people fear on a daily basis to keep society from falling into chaos. They see the underbelly of society and when they are attacked or assaulted in the performance of their duties the remaining segment of society must stand up and denounce these actions.

We believe it is the role of our Legislators to provide some type of additional deterrent to those members of society who resist these efforts at the risk of injury and assault on our Public Safety Officers. The Passing of this bill will send a clear message to that segment of society that wishes to do harm and create chaos that when you assault/attack the very individuals charged with keeping society safe there will be severe consequences.

*Sergeant Richard Holton
Hartford Police Union Vice President*



Law Enforcement Officers Assaulted

The following information concerns duly sworn city, university and college, county, state, and tribal law enforcement officers who were assaulted in the line of duty in 2008 and met certain other criteria.

Overview

- In 2008, a total of 10,110 law enforcement agencies submitted assault data to the FBI. These agencies employed 518,120 officers who served more than 226 million people, representing nearly 75 percent of the Nation's population. (Based on Table 65.)
- Law enforcement agencies reported that 58,792 officers were assaulted in the line of duty.
- The rate of these offenses was 11.3 officer assaults per 100 sworn officers in 2008.

More information about these topics is provided in Tables 65, 66, 70, and 71.

Injuries

- Of all the officers assaulted, 26.1 percent sustained injuries.
- Among officers who were assaulted with personal weapons (e.g., hands, fists, or feet), 27.8 percent were injured.
- Of those attacked with knives or other cutting instruments, 13.4 percent suffered injuries.
- Of the officers who were assaulted with firearms, 8.4 percent were injured.
- Among officers who were assaulted with other dangerous weapons, 22.6 percent sustained injuries.

More information about this topic is provided in Tables 65, 66, and 70.

Times of incidents

- For the tenth consecutive year, 12:01 to 2 a.m. was the time frame in which most officer assaults occurred, accounting for 15.5 percent of all officer assaults.
- The time frame in which the fewest officer assaults happened was 6:01 to 8 a.m., accounting for 2.4 percent of those incidents.

More information about this topic is provided in Table 67.

Circumstances

- In 2008, the largest percentage of officers assaulted (32.0 percent) were responding to disturbance calls (family quarrels, bar fights, etc.).
- The second-highest percentage of officers assaulted (15.1 percent) were attempting other arrests.
- The third-highest percentage of officers assaulted (11.8 percent) were handling, transporting, or maintaining custody of prisoners.

More information about this topic is provided in Tables 68, 69, and 73.

Clearances

Law enforcement agencies can clear offenses by arrests or exceptional means (i.e., when law enforcement can identify the perpetrator but are unable to make an arrest due to circumstances beyond their control, such as the death or suicide of the subject).

- Of the 58,792 reported assaults on law enforcement officers in 2008, law enforcement agencies cleared 88.5 percent.
- By type of circumstance, agencies cleared the greatest percentage of officer assaults (90.8 percent) for incidents involving calls to civil disorder scenes (mass disobedience, riot, etc.).

More information about this topic is provided in Table 68.

Assignments

- 62.7 percent of the law enforcement officers who were assaulted were assigned to 1-officer vehicle patrols.
- 17.8 percent of the officers who were assaulted were assigned to 2-officer vehicle patrols.
- 5.1 percent of officers who were assaulted were assigned to detective duties or special assignments.
- 14.4 percent of officers who were assaulted were assigned to other official duties.

(Based on Table 69.)

Weapons

- The majority of officers who were assaulted in the line of duty in 2008—80.7 percent—were attacked with personal weapons.
- 3.8 percent of the officers were assaulted with firearms.
- 1.6 percent of the officers were assaulted with knives or other cutting instruments.
- 13.9 percent of the officers were assaulted with other dangerous weapons.

More information about this topic is provided in Tables 70, 71, 72, and 73.

Hartford Police Department Assault on Police 2007 - 2009

2007	Total Part 1's	Assault on P.O.	2009	Total Part 1's	Assault on P.O.
Jan	897	11	Jan	667	2
Feb	911	12	Feb	510	6
Mar	717	6	Mar	781	6
Apr	933	8	Apr	876	4
May	991	12	May	895	5
Jun	1035	14	Jun	866	11
Jul	1021	5	Jul	976	9
Aug	1040	14	Aug	1045	7
Sept	1025	5	Sept	892	11
Oct	923	13	Oct	972	7
Nov	782	3	Nov	864	7
Dec	698	10	Dec	776	6
2007 Total	10973	113	2009 Total	10120	81

2008	Total Part 1's	Assault on P.O.	Year	Total Part 1's	Assault on P.O.
Jan	747	10	2007	10973	113
Feb	712	6	2008	10132	91
Mar	792	6	2009	10120	81
Apr	859	9	3 Year Total	31225	285
May	844	8			
Jun	1053	10			
Jul	961	8			
Aug	966	10			
Sept	787	6			
Oct	861	6			
Nov	828	6			
Dec	722	6			
2008 Total	10132	91			

Table 71

Law Enforcement Officers Assaulted

Region, Geographic Division, and State by Type of Weapon, 2008

Area	Total	Firearm	Knife or other cutting instrument	Other dangerous weapon	Personal weapons	Number of reporting agencies	Population covered	Number of officers employed
Number of victim officers	58,792	2,244	935	8,161	47,452	10,110	226,610,703	518,120
NORTHEAST	8,260	315	145	994	6,806	2,112	34,442,178	87,528
New England	1,762	9	23	216	1,514	434	7,720,330	18,742
Connecticut	757	8	7	115	627	101	3,501,252	8,612
Maine	230	0	4	19	207	132	1,315,497	1,926
Massachusetts	85	0	1	5	79	40	850,083	3,193
New Hampshire	275	0	5	29	241	71	734,918	1,474
Rhode Island	378	0	4	42	332	48	1,050,788	2,583
Vermont	37	1	2	6	28	42	267,792	954
Middle Atlantic	6,498	306	122	778	5,292	1,678	26,721,848	68,786
New Jersey	2,378	29	27	263	2,059	504	8,396,464	24,809
New York	772	7	11	77	677	314	9,193,400	24,162
Pennsylvania	3,348	270	84	438	2,556	860	9,131,984	19,815
MIDWEST	6,961	183	67	688	6,023	2,112	29,947,261	60,697
East North Central	2,937	52	23	235	2,627	661	12,944,642	26,770
Illinois ¹								
Indiana	1,306	21	10	97	1,178	158	4,697,978	7,955
Michigan ¹								
Ohio	506	7	7	64	428	134	2,685,350	5,875
Wisconsin	1,125	24	6	74	1,021	369	5,561,314	12,940
West North Central	4,024	131	44	453	3,396	1,451	17,002,619	33,927
Iowa	469	5	5	79	380	231	2,967,083	4,499
Kansas	717	25	11	52	629	92	1,162,711	2,679
Minnesota	198	0	1	11	186	304	4,569,597	7,717
Missouri	2,159	99	24	252	1,784	556	5,800,150	14,293
Nebraska	244	1	1	19	223	81	1,205,381	2,540
North Dakota	76	0	0	7	69	81	611,765	1,045
South Dakota	161	1	2	33	125	106	685,932	1,154
SOUTH	28,455	1,138	484	4,372	22,461	4,262	98,155,784	228,689
South Atlantic	17,733	603	270	2,765	14,095	1,815	52,287,833	124,308
Delaware	644	30	6	127	481	52	871,838	2,296
District of Columbia ²	103	0	1	5	97	1		425
Florida	8,049	247	120	1,474	6,208	395	18,283,196	42,885
Georgia	866	49	7	115	695	262	7,578,314	17,920
Maryland	3,844	99	54	367	3,324	130	5,456,159	14,123
North Carolina	2,120	112	42	210	1,756	326	7,883,805	18,851
South Carolina	830	38	18	174	600	378	4,477,742	11,332

Table 71

**Law Enforcement Officers Assaulted
Region, Geographic Division, and State by Type of Weapon, 2008**

Area	Total	Firearm	Knife or other cutting instrument	Other dangerous weapon	Personal weapons	Number of reporting agencies	Population covered	Number of officers employed
Virginia	1,277	28	22	293	934	271	7,736,779	16,476
West Virginia ¹								
East South Central	3,015	231	64	602	2,118	882	12,977,723	31,461
Alabama	259	19	5	37	198	350	4,437,374	10,775
Kentucky	591	53	7	87	444	5	997,134	1,928
Mississippi	186	11	4	22	149	101	1,674,125	3,775
Tennessee	1,979	148	48	456	1,327	426	5,869,090	14,983
West South Central	7,707	304	150	1,005	6,248	1,565	32,890,228	72,920
Arkansas	302	11	4	33	254	210	2,609,689	5,081
Louisiana	1,693	37	10	290	1,356	88	2,592,386	8,742
Oklahoma	904	53	30	155	666	284	3,476,789	6,660
Texas	4,808	203	106	527	3,972	983	24,211,364	52,437
WEST	15,116	608	239	2,107	12,162	1,624	64,065,480	141,206
Mountain	5,639	256	113	868	4,402	760	20,822,815	41,758
Arizona	2,118	128	51	361	1,578	82	6,339,092	12,740
Colorado	810	34	26	125	625	198	4,613,491	11,136
Idaho	252	11	1	22	218	102	1,505,368	2,652
Montana	247	9	2	40	196	96	922,122	1,389
Nevada	699	28	11	110	550	36	2,600,167	5,217
New Mexico	741	30	14	137	560	71	1,627,847	3,332
Utah	683	16	6	63	598	113	2,686,719	4,104
Wyoming	89	0	2	10	77	62	528,009	1,188
Pacific	9,477	352	126	1,239	7,760	864	43,242,665	99,448
Alaska	287	25	11	42	209	33	673,786	1,218
California	7,639	299	91	1,007	6,242	456	31,697,907	80,273
Hawaii	312	0	2	25	285	3	1,145,204	2,669
Oregon	377	2	2	48	325	144	3,614,911	5,173
Washington	862	26	20	117	699	228	6,110,857	10,115

¹Data for Illinois, Michigan, and West Virginia were not available for inclusion in this table.

²The figures represent the number of assaults on officers reported by the Metro Transit Police.