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City of Bridgeport
DEPARTMENT OF POLICE
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF

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JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 23, 2011

Testimony from Bridgeport Police Chief Joseph L. Gaudett, Jr.

RE: S.B. No. 1094 (RAISED) AN ACT BANNING LARGE CAPACITY
AMMUNITION MAGAZINES.

Members of the Judiciary Committee...

I thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today on such a critical issue as the proposed Act Banning Large Capacity Magazines.

I am proud to be Chief of Police of Bridgeport, Connecticut's largest city. I am even prouder to be Chief of Police of Bridgeport, Connecticut's SAFEST large city. That is something I am working hard to maintain.

The Connecticut General Assembly, in my opinion very correctly, voted to ban civilian possession of assault weapons. That was a giant step. Now I urge you to take the necessary second step to help me keep the people of Bridgeport safe. Simply put, it is critical you support the ban on large capacity magazines.

Just as you correctly realized there is NO REASON for the general public to possess Assault Weapons, that same basic logic must be applied to the large capacity magazines.

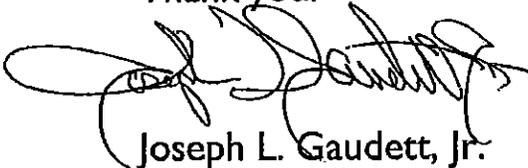
There is no reason whatsoever that hunters or sportsmen or collectors or the public at large should have large capacity magazines. Their purpose is singular and deadly, and makes no sense at all for general public use.

The large capacity magazines put not only the general public at risk but especially the men and women of Connecticut's Police departments. Men and women willing to put their lives on the line to protect you and your constituents should not have to face the greatly increased danger of running into a shooter equipped with such a tool.

The act you are considering would not only ban the possession of such a magazine, but would also ban the transfer or sale of large capacity magazines within Connecticut. This is another critical element to consider because far too often police are faced with illegal weapons brought into the state that wind up in the hands of criminals and increasingly into the hands of teens and youth gangs.

We who proudly wear the badges and uniforms of our cities and towns need your support for this bill to make you, your family, your constituents, and the police fraternity safer.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph L. Gaudett, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Joseph L. Gaudett, Jr.

Chief of Police

Bridgeport, Connecticut