

Testimony in Support of House Bill No. 6112 – An Act Concerning the Enforcement of Municipal Ordinances

**Public Safety and Security Committee – Public Hearing
February 15, 2011**

**Matthew W. Hart
Town Manager, Town of Mansfield**

Thank you Mr/Ms. Chairman for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 6112, an act that serves to clarify that police officers or employees of an accredited police department with appropriate jurisdiction within the municipality have the ability to enforce local ordinances and regulations.

This issue is important to Mansfield due to the fact that we are the home of the University of Connecticut's main campus in Storrs. The University of Connecticut does have an accredited police department, and, in their role as campus police, these officers are appointed to serve as special constables for the town. There are times, such as a mutual aid situation, where the university police respond to calls or patrol off-campus. For these situations, it would be helpful to ensure that university police have the ability to enforce Mansfield ordinances and regulations as do the resident state troopers and town constables that patrol our town.

The workload associated with policing the neighborhoods adjacent to the Storrs campus is significant. In FY 2010/11 to date, our resident troopers and town constables have issued 184 citations for violations of town ordinances, primarily for alcohol and nuisance complaints in our off campus housing areas. Our troopers and constables also issue a fair number of municipal parking citations in neighborhoods adjacent to campus.

Arguably, the university police have the authority to issue local ordinances and regulations pursuant to the fact that they are appointed as special constables for the town. However, the Town of Mansfield wishes to ensure that the university police have this power and we have asked our state representative, Gregory Haddad, for his assistance. Representative Haddad has accordingly submitted this bill.

I would imagine that this bill would also prove beneficial for other Connecticut municipalities that host an accredited police force other than the municipal police entity. The examples that I am most familiar with are those communities, such as Danbury, Farmington, Middletown, Stamford, Waterbury, West Hartford, New Haven and Windham, which host colleges and universities with accredited police departments.

I encourage your support of House Bill No. 6112, and would be happy to answer any questions you may have.