



HARTFORD POLICE UNION

20-28 Sargeant Street Hartford, CT 06105

Tel. 860-548-1435 Fax 860-548-1329 E-mail: hartford.union@att.net

Hartford Police Union

Testimony 3/12/12

SB No 244: (Raised) An act concerning the enhanced penalty for the sale or possession of drugs near schools, day care centers and public housing projects.

The Hartford Police Union opposes any revisions to the current statute. The revisions in this proposed bill will cause an increase in criminal drug activity in and around our schools, day care centers and housing projects. Reducing the distance required by the current law will only encourage criminal activity and violence associated with it and put the citizens and children at further risk of being exposed to dangerous situations, particularly in the urban environment.

This bill will further decriminalize drug activity where we as a society should have zero tolerance towards drug dealing activity. We as a society should not be looking at decreasing the safe zones and penalty's established by previous lawmakers, but looking at increasing the safe zones as well as the penalty when it comes to drug activity in and around our schools, day care centers and places where we live.

SB No. 245 (Raised) An Act Concerning the Recording of Police Activity by the Public.

The Hartford Police Union is opposed to SB No. 245, An Act Concerning the Recording of Police Activity by the Public.

In this day and age of technology with the camera and video phones things are being recorded everyday whether it's the Police Officer on the beat, skate boarders doing tricks to kids video taping assaults on other kids and posting them on a social web sites, we live in an informational age.

Being a Police Officer is a difficult and many times a thankless job. There are members of our society that think it's ok to violate the law and resist the police when they go to enforce such law(s). To pass legislation that would further endanger Officers, citizens and creates additional liability on the towns and cities they serve. To only enumerate five (5) situations in the proposed bill where an officer would not be held liable is reckless and irresponsible. Video taped evidence has its limits and to solely rely on video is dangerous and creates more of a controversy.

We believe that citizen's rights are already granted and protected under the federal and state constitution but we don't believe that they have an absolute right to interfere, hamper or obstruct an officer in the performance of their duties. If a citizen feels they were not treated properly or their rights were infringed upon there are avenues for that to be addressed. To create a law because of the acts of a few individuals, the law enforcement society should not be held liable for those actions. This bill will only create a divide between the community and law enforcement. This bill would only undermine years of community policing that departments have taken years to cultivate. We should



HARTFORD POLICE UNION

20-28 Sargeant Street Hartford, CT 06105

Tel. 860-548-1435 Fax 860-548-1329 E-mail: hartford.union@att.net

move forwards and not backwards and based on this bill we would be moving backwards and would do nothing but damage relations between the community and police though out the state of Connecticut.

HB No. 5286: (Raised) An Act Concerning the Return of Stolen Property

The Hartford Police Union supports HB No. 5286, An Act Concerning the Return of Stolen Property.

The increase in value would allow Police agencies to give back some of the recovered items to crime victims and free up space in their property rooms. Some of the items stolen from the victims could and can hold sentimental value. By reducing the property value it would allow the recovering agency to return these item(s) to the victim allowing them to repossess those treasured items that no amount of money could replace. It would also free up space at the courthouses when an individual decides to take a case to trial. I have seen where defense attorneys have asked for a case to be dismissed because they could not see or manipulate the item that was stolen, and Judges have granted such dismissals. By allowing a photograph and an inventory to be presented will reduce the ability of a good case to be dismissed because the property can't be physically manipulated by a defense attorney looking for a loophole to get his case dismissed. You don't see stolen cars being wheeled into a courtroom so why shouldn't there be a higher threshold on stolen property. This bill will allow crime victims the ability to recover their property, sooner than later, and give prosecutors the ability to try cases without being hampered by having the physical evidence in the courtroom.

HB No. 5432 (Raised) An Act Concerning School-Based Arrest

The Hartford Police Union is opposed to HB No. 5432 (Raised) An Act Concerning School-Based Arrest.

There are reasons why Officers are assigned to schools, from being a mentor to providing a service that regular school security cannot. This bill seeks to limit the powers of Arrest of the Officer assigned to the School and we can not support any bill that limits the Officers decision making as to when to make or not make an arrest or if he or she can use force to make an arrest, by doing so creates a dangerous atmosphere for the Officer, students and facility.

It also is seeking to create a database, based on the arrest of students. This information as well as trying to limit the Officer's powers of arrest can be manipulated for annual reports generated by the school board.

Like I said before there are reasons Officers are assigned to schools, and if the school district(s) are looking to modify or limit the role and arrest powers of an officer we cannot support that at all. If this bill was to pass we could see police departments removing their school resource officers from schools and redeploying them back into the field.

Sgt Rich Adlan, HPU President