

TESTIMONY OF DARIEN POLICE CHIEF DUANE LOVELLO REGARDING RAISED
BILL 5501, AN ACT CONCERNING EYEWITNESS IDENTIFICATION PROCEDURES,
FEBRUARY SESSION, 2012

As an appointed representative of the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association to the Legislature's *Eyewitness Identification Task Force*, I generally support the bill and the recommendations of the *Task Force* but urge that lines 125 and 126 in the raised bill be stricken or modified. The use of a "folder shuffle blind method" lineup under certain circumstances, as recommended by the *Task Force* and included in the bill, would preclude an officer from knowing the specific order in which photos were presented, and could leave the officer unable to record such order as required by lines 125 and 126. I think a method to address this issue is better left to being incorporated into the mandatory policy.

I support the bill's mandate that the Police Officer Standards and Training Council and Division of State Police be charged with drafting mandatory policies implementing best practices and policies consistent with the statute, and would urge restraint in further codifying such practices via statute. Given that the bill requires the continued existence of the *Task Force* and its charge to research, evaluate and recommend changes in best practices regarding eyewitness identification to the Police Officer Standards and Training Council and Division of State Police, such changes could be accomplished more quickly by the *Task Force* than by legislation.

Submitted March 16, 2012