



# CCM 2012 Testimony

900 CHAPEL STREET, 9th FLOOR, NEW HAVEN, CT 06510-2807 PHONE (203) 498-3000 FAX (203) 562-6314

## ***PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY COMMITTEE***

February 28, 2012

Good Morning,

I am Susan Bransfield, First Selectman of Portland and the Chair of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities Policy Committee on Public Safety.

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 90% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

**CCM supports SB 195 "An Act Concerning the Storage of Stolen Property".**

This bill would amend the state-mandated threshold that requires local police officials seize and store stolen property, from the current value of over \$250 to a proposed value of over \$1,000. By law, local agencies may return stolen property to an owner if the value is equal to or less than the current threshold.

This proposal is a reasonable adjustment to current law that would offer some relief for local law enforcement personnel from certain administrative burdens (i.e. log, storage, and inventory of items) -- as well as permit the rightful owners access to their property in a timelier manner -- vital, sensitive property such as personal computers and smart-phones. The threshold that triggers this state mandate has not been adjusted since the mid-1980's and does not accommodate for increases in the values of personal properties during this time period.

The Committee favorably reported (and the House passed) a similar proposal last session (HB 6429) as a modest relief measure for municipalities from this state mandate -- and would be wise to do so again this session.

CCM urges the Committee to **favorably report SB 195**.



If you have any questions, please contact Mike Muszynski, Legislative Analyst of CCM via email [mmuszynski@ccm-ct.org](mailto:mmuszynski@ccm-ct.org) or (203) 500-7556.