



STRATFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Patrick A. Ridenhour

Chief of Police

Joseph D. McNeil

Deputy Chief

March 11, 2013

Committee on Public Safety and Security

Room# 3600
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, Ct. 06106

I am writing to ask you to support Bill 6009. This bill will allow the creation of an interactive computer training platform. The system will be similar to the National Incident Training Systems (NIMS) concept and can be completed online. Upon completion of the online lesson the officers are then tested and if successful a certificate is printed out for inclusion in the officers' training file.

Currently, police officers are mandated to receive 60 hours of core certification courses over three years. These courses require an officer to go to a training class offsite or by a department sponsored course. When an officer attends an offsite training course, the police department pays overtime and travel time while all department sponsored training depends on a certified instructor's availability. Either training scenario requires overtime payment to the individual officer.

The addition of an electronic computer training platform will be an invaluable tool for most departments. The primary being that a computer training module that meets Police Officer Standards and Training Council requirements will be available all the time, seven days a week. Officers working the evening and midnight shifts can complete core certification while working and even on weekends.

Technology has made all our lives better and its full potential is not always understood. The computer training platform can incorporate many things from new laws to new policies.

I strongly support Bill No. 6009.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joseph McNeil".

Joseph McNeil
Deputy Chief

