

NORWALK

DEPARTMENT OF POLICE SERVICE

March 15, 2013

Committee on Public Safety and Security
Room 3600
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: HB6009 An Act Concerning Local Training of Municipal Police Officers

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of proposed bill No. 6009 which was introduced by Representative Cafero. The bill would amend chapter 104 of the general statutes and require the Police Officer Standards and Training Council to create an electronic computer training platform that can be used by local police officers. Currently, the state mandated 60 hours of review credit training is as its name implies, based only upon classroom hours attended. This bill would allow electronic and online training. The change would allow a move away from a strictly classroom hours based approach to a knowledge based approach as officers may be tested at the conclusion of the online training to assure they have the proper understanding of the material presented. This move to an electronic interactive platform will allow agencies to provide training to officers at a reduced cost, while assuring that required material has been provided to the officers.

Given the technology available, I believe it is time for POST to look at ways of using this technology to improve the training given to officers while at the same time reducing costs to the municipalities. Due to the current hours based approach, almost all training must be done on an overtime basis. Using technology, we can begin to move some of the training to an on duty environment and/or reduce the number of hours necessary to provide the needed instruction.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of my strong support for this proposed bill.

Sincerely,



Thomas E. Kulhawik
Chief of Police

TEK:mr

Cc: Deputy Chief David Wrinn