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PH February 24, 2014 RE: SB 55

To the committee,

While most police officers are dedicated to justice, some abuse the power of their position to have a negative effect on the rights of underrepresented racial groups. Current law is not adequate to protect the rights of underrepresented racial groups.

Please add the Community Party's traffic stop receipt language to S.B. No. 55 (Raised) An Act Concerning Complaints That Allege Misconduct By Law Enforcement Agency Personnel. The language and rationale of the Community Party's proposal are included below. In 2010 former state trooper Andrew Crumbie told CP that the most blatant form of racial profiling occurs when an officer stops a motorist and does not give out a ticket or written warning. Our provision would give motorists an important layer of protection. The driver would receive a record of the stop, including the patrol officer's identifying information.

### **Community Party Trayvon Martin Act Bill Language**

January 20, 2014

**Introduction** ~ It's time to take action to stop racial profiling and police containment in Black and Brown communities here in Connecticut. Every 28 hours a Black person is killed somewhere by police, security guards and self-appointed vigilantes like George Zimmerman, according to a Malcolm X Grassroots Movement report. <http://www.operationghettostorm.org/>. Trayvon was shot and killed after being approached on the street by Zimmerman, an armed neighborhood watch leader. Former Bay Area Rapid Transit police officer Johannes Mehserle murdered Oscar Grant in 2009 with no provocation or reason. See: <http://sfbayview.com/2009/oscar-grant-young-father-and-peacemaker-executed-by-bart-police>. We've had many unnecessary deaths right here in CT as well. CP's Trayvon Martin Act is aimed at addressing this public safety crisis.

The Trayvon Martin Act calls for the creation of a legislative task force on police misconduct and includes some of CP's original racial profiling bill language. The CT legislature passed some of our provisions in 2012 and they were scheduled to go in effect July 1, 2013. Last year our traffic stop receipt language was repealed in favor of a version emphasizing electronic data collection and analysis, instead of a copy of the mandated "Traffic Stop Report" going to the motorist. We believe this copy is the only way for motorists to know how their race is being represented and is a proven factor in undetected biased policing. We sat in on testimony of dozens of motorists of color from around the state who were stopped, harassed, given tickets with race recorded as White, and heard of many other biased law enforcement actions.

**Problem:** Drivers do not get a copy of the Stop Report which has allowed some officers to lie about the race of the people they stop. Some victims of profiling may not complain because they don't know officers are covering up the profiled stops. As we mentioned previously our traffic stop language was passed by lawmakers in 2012 but was repealed due to pressure by the police before it was scheduled to become law in 2013.

**Add to current law:** 1) "Traffic Stop Reports are to be filled out in duplicate so that each motorist receives a copy of the completed form from the officer, in addition to any ticket or summons if one is issued. 2) The copy of the report should be given to the driver as well as the information on filing complaints if motorists believe they have been profiled. 3) If the reports are entered into an electronic data collection system a copy will be immediately available to the detained driver."

**Problem:** Drivers and their passengers are being asked for I.D's. and questioned about their immigration status even when they are clearly not involved in criminal activity.

**Add to current law:** " 1) The driver shall only be asked for a: Driver's License, the Vehicle Registration and Proof of Insurance and no other identification or questions about immigration status; 2) Passengers shall not be asked for any identification or questions about their immigration status unless they are being arrested for criminal activity."

**Problem:** Men of color are stopped and frisked or worse in every corner of our state; community residents have reported to us that if they dare challenge police officers in their neighborhood, they are often thrown to the ground, cuffed and arrested, then charged with resisting arrest. This happens to our teenagers in schools as well as on our streets. Many have been beaten or shot by police or others with "authority", often fatally as the MXGM report shows.

**Add to current law:** "1) Create a Legislative Task Force which would serve in the following capacities: a) investigate complaints of misconduct of state or local police officials, b) provide training and oversight to public school guards, university and transportation police, c) provide training and oversight of neighborhood watch organizations and properly screen and monitor persons functioning in these roles; 2) the Task Force will reserve spots for urban lawmakers whose constituents are disproportionately affected by these issues; 3) the Task Force will conduct monthly public hearings around the state, days and evenings, which would also be broadcast by the Connecticut Network for television or online viewing; 4) the Task Force will create a process whereby people could file formal complaints about profiling and harassment by police or other law enforcement authorities through their legislators' offices or CHRO."

Thank you for considering this message.