

Trumbull Police Local 1745

P.O. Box 130 — TRUMBULL, CONN. 06611

261-3665

Affiliated with
AFL-CIO



NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF
LAW ENFORCEMENT UNION LOCALS
CONNECTICUT STATE LABOR COUNCIL

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE,
COUNTY, AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES
COUNCIL 15, AFL-CIO

PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY COMMITTEE

Testimony OPPOSING

Raised HB 5531: AN ACT CONCERNING MUTUAL CONSOLIDATION OF DISPATCH FACILITIES

March 13, 2014

Senator Hartley, Representative Dargan, & Members of the Committee,

My name is Robert Coppola. I am President of the Trumbull Police Union. Please accept my testimony on behalf of the seventy (70) sworn officers whom I represent.

We are **OPPOSED** to **RAISED HB 5531: AN ACT CONCERNING MUTUAL CONSOLIDATION OF DISPATCH FACILITIES** for various reasons. We hope you accept our testimony from our perspective as law enforcement professionals who are directly affected by this bill.

We are opposed to the bill for the following reasons:

1. Impediments to implementing new dispatch protocols & procedures;
2. Concerns with officer safety;
3. Addition of liability to our Communication Officers' positions;
4. Added liability with prisoner monitoring from other jurisdictions;
5. Insufficient manpower;
6. Civilianization & privatization of police bargaining unit positions.

Instead of reinventing the dispatch facility wheel, we would rather encourage the Committee to propose increased funding for the replacement of old & outdated dispatching infrastructure. Our local union sees that the problems lie with outdated equipment that is costly for the town to replace. Assisting a municipality with grants or funding to make in-place improvements to their existing dispatch infrastructure would prove more effective than a ruse to consolidate dispatch facilities with mainly civilian and/or private employees that would ultimately disrupt the command structure, policies, and procedures of each affected police department and bargaining unit.

Trumbull Police Local 1745

P.O. Box 130 — TRUMBULL, CONN. 06611

261-3665

Affiliated with
AFL-CIO



NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF
LAW ENFORCEMENT UNION LOCALS
CONNECTICUT STATE LABOR COUNCIL

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE,
COUNTY, AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES
COUNCIL 15, AFL-CIO

We believe the consolidation of PSAP's have been successful in other states, such as Maryland & California, due to county governing authorities already in place. We believe that Connecticut municipalities are suffering from implementing their plans mainly due to the lack of a central authority, as well as for many other reasons. Henceforth, we do not believe the dispatch facility wheel needs reinventing.

We believe the public is & feels safer when the combination of a highly trained sworn police officer(s) and a civilian dispatcher(s) are utilized to answer the E911 to provide them emergency assistance.

Thank you to each member of this committee for your hard work. We understand & appreciate the difficulties of your job in providing a balanced service to the public. We thank the Committee for allowing us the opportunity to consider our testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Coppola
President