

SOUTH WINDSOR POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Senator Larson, Representative Dargan and distinguished members of the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Security.

I respectfully submit the following written testimony on proposed **H.B. 5379 – An Act Concerning the Penalty for Assault of an Off-Duty Police Officer.**

I support an enhanced penalty for the attack of a police officer when that police officer is off-duty. Our statutes should afford protection to the men and women who serve as police officers in Connecticut. While the assault of any person is tragic, the targeting and subsequent assault of a police officer, particularly when they are off-duty, is particularly heinous.

A police officer engages many people during his or her working hours. Often times, that engagement may be upsetting to the citizen and may cause the citizen to seek revenge against the officer. This is the primary reason why our current statutes allow police officers and other vulnerable public safety officials to restrict the release of their home addresses.

Our statutes should afford an additional penalty to those who assault an off-duty police officer.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matthew D. Reed".

Chief Matthew D. Reed
South Windsor Police Department