

# 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

## CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE

### Testimony **OPPOSING**

### **S.B. 475 - AN ACT CONCERNING MUTUAL CONSOLIDATION OF DISPATCH FACILITIES**

**February 17, 2015**

Senator Larson, Representative Dargan, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Blake Petty. I am Vice President of the Trumbull Police Union. Please accept my testimony on behalf of our President, Robert Coppola, as well as the seventy-five (75) sworn officers whom we represent.

We are **OPPOSED** to **S.B. 475 - 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facility wheel, we would rather encourage the Committee to propose increased funding for the replacement of old & outdated dispatching infrastructure. Our local union sees that the problems lie with outdated equipment which is costly for municipalities to replace. Assisting municipalities with grants or funding to make in-place improvements to their existing dispatch infrastructure would prove more effective.

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Furthermore, consolidation of dispatch facilities between two or more municipalities, with mainly civilian and/or private employees as well as a governing board and dispatch authority would negatively disrupt the command structure, policies, and procedures of each affected police department within those municipalities along with the collective bargaining units' rights. This bill may be well-intended to help save money for smaller municipalities, however, at the same time; it negatively affects public safety. As evidenced with the same attempts to do so within the state police, our state police counterparts have identified several negatives to consolidation of dispatch facilities within only one agency. We can't imagine there wouldn't be the same negative impact upon two or more agencies under their separate autonomies.

We believe the consolidation of PSAP's have been successful in other states, such as Maryland & California, due to the county governing authorities already in place in those states. Henceforth, we do not believe that a local governing board and/or dispatch authority would accomplish the goal. It would in fact complicate it.

We believe the public is and feels safer, and it saves some money, when the combination of a highly trained sworn police officer **AND** a civilian dispatcher are utilized to answer the E911 to provide the public with emergency assistance.

Thank you to each member of the Committee for your hard work. We understand and 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.

Thank you.