



HARTFORD POLICE UNION

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PRESIDENT RICHARD HOLTON

Office of The President

Statement of
The Hartford Police Union
To the
Judiciary Committee

In Opposition of Raised Bill No. 1065

My name is Richard Holton, President of the Hartford Police Union. Representing men and women who unselfishly serve the residents of Hartford putting their own safety and lives on the line to keep the Capitol City safe and enjoyable. The Hartford Police Union opposes HB 1065, **An Act Concerning The Recording of Police Activity by the Public.**

One main factor to consider would be the possibility that HB 1065 may cause tedious litigation and increased liability for the State and municipalities. This bill would invite individuals to file law suits to get into the preverbal "deep pockets" of the Towns, Cities as well as the State itself.

This bill would encourage individuals to go beyond the boundaries currently established and feel embolden under an assumption that they would have the right to go beyond what is acceptable, interfering with law enforcement officers while in the performance of their duties.

This bill will also create a more complex dynamic between the police and the public, not only does the officer have to focus and worry about the incident on hand but now they will be distracted by an individual who has stepped beyond those boundaries placing the officer as well as that individual in an unsafe environment.

CCM, Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, for the past several years has opposed such legislation.

In the past years The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection Commissioners have opposed such a measure, which would create additional civil liabilities, allowing individuals to video tape critical incidents putting departments behind the curve when making family notifications about serious injuries and or the death of loved ones, as well as putting crime scenes and witnesses in jeopardy.

This bill will have a severe impact on public safety, instead of getting cooperation from the public you will get confrontation from the public; there are already mechanisms in place if an individual feels their rights are violated, and the encouragement of lawsuits is fiscally irresponsible. Based on the above information I urge you not to pass HB 1065.

Sergeant Richard Holton
HPU President