

Haggerty, Katie

From: Stafford Animal Control <animalcontrol@staffordct.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2015 12:00 PM
To: JudTestimony
Subject: Raised Bill No. 1094, An Act Concerning Assault with Enhanced Penalties

Testimony of Municipal Animal Control Officer Gary Wilson, 1 Main Street Stafford, CT 06076, 860-684-2382

I support SB 1094 to change the assault statute to include assault on ACO's as a Class C felony.

I have been in the Animal Control field for over 19 years. Throughout the years I have seen the Animal Control profession grow from the status of "Dog Warden" to a more professional status within the law enforcement community. The Municipal Animal Control Officer has skill sets that are unique to the law enforcement community and this is becoming apparent throughout the United States. Connecticut has moved forward in the training requirements for Animal Control Officers as well as additional laws that we are required to enforce, but what has not moved forward is the ability to protect Animal Control Officers in the same manner as Police Officers, Peace Officers, Firefighters, Security Guards and Volunteer Search & Rescue Members ect. As listed in C.G.S. 53a-167c.

The job of the Animal Control Officer is becoming increasingly more dangerous and if the State Legislation were to support and pass Raised Bill No. 1094, it would be one more tool to help protect the Animal Control Officers in the State Of Connecticut who with little or no fanfare go above and beyond to not only protect the animals, but the people of this Great State.

I would like to thank the Legislation in advance for their consideration of the Bill.

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