



## QUESTIONS FOR DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION (DESPP) NOMINEE

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### DESPP

DESPP consists of the (1) divisions of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, State Police, Statewide Emergency Telecommunications, and Scientific Services; (2) Police Officer Standards and Training Council; and (3) Fire Prevention and Control Commission.

The DESPP commissioner is the administrative and commanding head of the State Police and has all the powers and privileges of a police officer.

Among other things, the commissioner appoints resident state troopers; licenses professional bondsmen and private detectives, among others; and enforces commercial vehicle laws at weigh stations.

### GENERAL AGENCY ISSUES

1. Tell us about your top five initiatives as commissioner and the outcomes of these initiatives. What has been your biggest challenge as commissioner?
2. How would you prioritize the law enforcement issues most important to you?
3. Spending has exceeded the agency budget for several years and is on track to do so again in FY 15. To what extent does this stem from unforeseen, unpredictable circumstances? What steps are you taking to improve the agency's budgeting?
4. What costs can the agency cut without jeopardizing public safety?

## **POLICY ISSUES**

### ***Firearms***

In 2013, the legislature passed two major gun bills that significantly expanded DESPP's regulatory responsibilities.

1. The media and advocacy groups, among others, have cited many problems with the legislation. Is this the case? Can you tell us what provisions, if any, are particularly problematic for the agency and residents and how the legislature should address them?
2. How is the agency coping with the demands placed on it by the gun legislation?

### ***Technology***

***Drones.*** The proliferation of drones and their potential uses have raised safety, privacy, legal, and policy concerns. The pace of regulation has lagged behind the technology.

1. How do we weigh the risks versus benefits of this technology?
2. What limitations are reasonable and appropriate on where, when, and for what purposes drones are used?
3. What special problems, if any, do you anticipate the increase in the use of drones will present for law enforcement?

***The Internet.*** The growth in Internet usage has presented new problems for law enforcement agencies, which must constantly adapt to the changing nature of crime and criminal behavior.

1. What is your opinion on the bill (HB 6317) before the legislature to establish public-private partnerships to provide Internet security and training exercises?

***Police Body Cameras.*** In the wake of the police shooting death of a black teenager in Missouri and the police choke-hold death of a New York man, calls are increasing to equip police officers with body cameras.

1. What do you think of a proposal (SB 770) before the Public Safety and Security Committee to establish a one-year pilot program to fund the use of police body cameras in three towns?

***Driverless Cars.*** Driverless cars, which experts estimate will arrive on the market in five to 20 years, are likely to dramatically change the role and operations of law enforcement. DESPP will need to be prepared for the substantial changes and the challenges ahead.

1. How can DESPP prepare for and adapt to the changes that driverless cars are likely to bring? Does it have the resources to do so?

***Virtual Currency.*** The anonymity offered by virtual currencies, such as Bitcoins, can lead to illicit operations in a digital black market. Many view these types of anonymous networks as a convenient path to traffic drugs, humans, and weapons.

1. How can DESPP work to ensure such illegal operations do not develop?

## **PERSONNEL ISSUES**

### ***Hiring Practices***

1. What is the composition of your management team, in terms of gender and ethnicity?
2. How important do you consider racial and gender diversity in the police force?

### ***State Police Staffing Levels***

1. What is the current number of troopers on staff? Do you believe the number is adequate?
2. The latest crime reports show a drop in crime levels. Do you anticipate that we will need fewer police officers in the next few years?
3. Please tell us a little about current State Police attrition rates and how they are affecting staffing levels.

## **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

1. What is the current state of disaster preparedness in Connecticut? In what areas is the state most prepared for a catastrophic event and why? In what areas is it least prepared and why?
2. To what extent is terrorism a threat in Connecticut?
3. What contingencies does the agency have in place to deal with cyberattacks, including cyberterrorism?
4. What do you think is the most likely emergency situation the state will face in the next few years? How well prepared is DESPP to respond?

5. There is a growing focus on infrastructure resilience and protection in the emergency management field. What steps are you taking as commissioner to prepare our aging infrastructure, particularly our electrical grid, water supply, and transportation systems, to face and rebound from catastrophes?

## **PRIOR RECORD**

Last year, the U.S. Department of Justice issued a [report](#) on conditions at the Rikers Island prison during the period 2011-2013, when you served as New York City correction commissioner. One of the [report's](#) authors described Rikers as a "broken institution . . . where brute force is the first impulse rather than the last resort. . . where beatings are routine while accountability is rare; and where a culture of violence endures even while a code of silence prevails."

1. Would you comment on this characterization?
2. What steps did you take to alleviate prison conditions?
3. Looking back, what do you think contributed to the culture of violence?
4. Looking back, what would you have done differently?

## **MANAGEMENT STYLE**

1. How would you describe your management style?
2. By all accounts, you have established a very positive working relationship with the State Police union. How did you do this?
3. What is the biggest risk you have taken as an agency head, and how did things turn out?

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