



March 23, 2016

Senator Eric Coleman
Representative William Tong
Members of the Judiciary Committee
Connecticut General Assembly

RE: SENATE BILL 470 - AN ACT CONCERNING A PILOT PROGRAM FOSTERING NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY AND CREATING A SET-ASIDE PROGRAM FOR PARTICIPANTS IN THE PILOT PROGRAM, AND AUTHORIZING BONDING FOR RELATED PROJECTS.

To Senator Eric Coleman, Representative William Tong and the distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly:

I wish to provide written testimony for Senate Bill 470.

The City of Richmond California created the Office of Neighborhood Safety (ONS) in late 2007. The ONS is the first agency of its kind in that it is a city government non-law enforcement agency with one-single focus: Reduce Firearm Assaults and Associated Injury and Death.

The ONS has created and launched a number of initiatives, none more important the Operation Peacemaker Fellowship. The Fellowship is a comprehensive community driven developmental approach to interrupting gun violence designed explicitly for those most likely to be victims and/or perpetrators of firearm activity. The Fellowship is an 18-month non-mandated partnership between the ONS and young men involved in urban street violence. The Fellowship is grounded in six-evidence based practices and seven rigorously focused program elements. Since the Fellowship was launched in June of 2010, 94% of the Fellows are alive, 84% haven't been injured by a firearm and 79% are not a suspect in a new firearm crime.

Between 2007 when the ONS was created and 2015, the City of Richmond California has experienced a 75% reduction in "gang" related firearm homicides and a 66% reduction in firearm assaults.

I have attached for your review a copy of the National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD) process evaluation report published in July 2015 that fully explicates the work and outcomes to date.

Sincerely,



DeVone Boggan, Neighborhood Safety Director
City of Richmond