



MYSTIC FIRE DEPARTMENT

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February 29, 2016

Senator Larson, Representative Dargan;
Members of the Public Safety Committee;
Esteemed Legislators;

I would like to note my and the Mystic Fire Departments opposition to HB 5406 AN ACT PERMITTING PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL TO USE BLUE LIGHTS

The use of Blue Lights in the State of Connecticut has long been the right of volunteer firefighters as a means of identification while responding to emergencies in their hometowns and response areas.

It is my opinion that to allow other responders to utilize blue lights would be a disservice to the volunteer firefighters that have had the right to use these lights for decades. Historically, the public associates a flashing blue with our volunteer firefighters. As you know the use of a blue light does not entitle the vehicle operator to any demands of right of way or to not adhere strictly to all rules of the road and traffic laws and any granting of right of way by other drivers is voluntary. Other services have a similar use of green lights to denote their service (i.e. EMS, Ambulance) and also to voluntarily provide notice to other drivers while responding to their particular emergency response.

In my opinion, no change is warranted to the present Blue Light Use Statutes and I am urging you not to support this Raised Bill. It is also my opinion that my position is shared statewide by other volunteer fire departments.

Respectfully

Frank C. Hilbert; Fire Chief, Mystic Fire Department