

Hobart, Jamie

From: Robert Guthrie <rjgwh911@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, February 29, 2016 9:52 AM
To: pstestimony
Cc: rjgwh911@yahoo.com
Subject: HB 5406

I have become aware of changes, or request to change, from green lights.

I am a volunteer firefighter in west haven, since 1983, past president of the CT State Firefighters Assoc (CSFA) and current the CT Director for the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC). I have been employed has a 911 Dispatcher for the last 30 years.

I can tell you over the years many have discussed lights and what agency should use what lights. It also should be noted 'blue lights' are courtesy lights. They do not require motorists to yield the right of way.

Also, since the creation of EMD, emergency medical dispatch, fewer calls receive a lights and siren response. I would assume in these cases responders would not, should not, be using any lights to respond.

Matter of fact, more and more fire departments respond to automatic fire alarms without using lights or siren. This is done in the interest of after to the public and first responders based on research. There is more risk to all, public or responders, when lights and siren activated.

I would urge you to keep the law has written. If anything, bring to the attention, reeducate, what the lights mean. Green is responding to a medical emergency, blue to a fire emergency. It also allows easy identification to the public. It also serves our police officers well to be able to identify the lights if indeed there is a misuse.

Again, the lights are courtesy lights and rely on the public to yield. It does not allow you to break traffic laws. If you look at the problems CT State Police and DOT have with cars moving over, the move over law, the color of the lights does not make you any safer.

I believe the current laws, regulations, regarding the lights should not be changed. I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Bob Guthrie 202-996-2382 cell

Sent from my iPhone