

Testimony for Public Safety Committee March 3, 2016

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I am a security consultant, and certified security instructor with 40 years in law enforcement and security as experience in the field as well as management.

It is interesting that today's committee hearing is exactly one year ago today. But the most important thing to notice is that because last year's bill SB1011 didn't get a chance to be voted on nothing has changed in the last year. Security officers are just as under trained as last year in the tools that they carry. Batons, handcuffs and pepper spray remain available to security officers without any training, in fact only 8 hours of firearms training is currently given for officers that carry firearms.

Yes I have been trying for years to increase training. Now, today at this committee and in the legislature this year is the time to pass SB 237.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE TRAINING OF SECURITY PERSONNEL

I don't know all the reasons and I was given many, why last year's bill failed, but this year's bill, which is very close to last years and the proposal I presented this year needs to be passed. The one thing I was told that I wish to share with you today is that when speaking with other members of the legislature the chairs of the committee that passed the bill and its members need to push the bill to leadership. I am asking the chairs and the members of this committee to push and to push more this year than ever to pass this bill. The security industry awaits you and this so very badly needed bill.

This year and last year with all the media coverage of law enforcement and its use of force, only amplifies the need for training and its importance in a state that has fallen behind the many other states in the training of security officers. This year is also important because an organization I belong to and represents security officers across the country, Private Officer International, is for the first time having its annual conference here in Hartford in June. Do I explain that the bill failed again?

I support SB237 and I hope that the members of this committee will to.

Respectfully Submitted,

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