



Connecticut Alliance of City Police

Senate Bill 467
Judiciary Committee
Public Hearing: 3/28/16

Please Oppose Senate Bill 467 -- AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL IMPLEMENTATION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORMS.

Area of immediate concern: Section 1. Section 29-6d of the 2016 supplement to the general statutes is amended by adding subsection (k) as follows (Effective from passage):

(NEW) (k) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the provisions of this section concerning the use of body-worn recording equipment shall not be subject to collective bargaining.

The Connecticut Alliance of City Police (CACP) is an organization whose members are 900 men and women who serve as sworn police officers in various Connecticut cities.

Discussion: The robust conversation and urgency to implement police body-worn recording equipment was highlighted as a result of public outcry largely by *communities of color* in 2014. The heart of this ongoing national debate is police “Use of Deadly Force” and the conversation of professional accountability and ethics in Municipal Public Safety. Police union officials, like myself, recognize that the conversation about implementing police body-worn recording equipment has been years in the making. However, looking at the events like the choking death of Eric Garner On July 17, 2014 (NYPD), and the police shooting of unarmed Michael Brown on August 9, 2014 (Ferguson PD), American elected officials have now been forced to the *race table* to talk about racial issues and the urban community’s relationship with police. At the forefront of this political discussion, is a police officer and their application of the use of force.

We should be reminded of December 18, 1787, when Hamilton wrote Federalist Paper #23 “The Necessity of a Government as Energetic as the One Proposed to the Preservation of the Union.” Nearly 229-years later, American scholars, educators, police administrators, community organizers and you as elected officials seem to have been forced to act as a neutral third-party attempting to conciliate community conflicts, violence based on race, color and national origin.

As the former chairman of the National Association of Black Law Enforcement Officers, and a current Connecticut municipal police union official, I would suggest more effective and less costly measure than voting Bill 467 - AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL IMPLEMENTATION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORMS, *Section 1. Section 29-6d.*

City Officials using the strategy of identifying stakeholders and the complexity of issues related to community conflict is effective in breaking down stereotypes, reducing inter-personal conflict, and deconstructing invisible barriers that inhibit positive community- police relationships may be the best approach in better structuring the future acts of police use of deadly force.

Police officers and their respective union leadership must be a viable part of the discussion of such legislation. Please be mindful of not creating “Race Reactive Legislation” influenced by events that have occur between police and communities in other States. I, therefore ask that you oppose **Senate Bill 467.**

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