Judiciary Committee – March 21, 2016

Testimony in Opposition of HB 5632, An Act Concerning an Accident Report for a Motor Vehicle Accident in Which a Person Was Killed.

Good morning, Chairman Coleman, Chairman Tong and members of the Judiciary committee. My name is Zak Leavy and I am speaking on behalf of Council 4 AFSCME, a union of 35,000 public and private employees which includes 2300 municipal police officers.

Council 4 opposes HB 5632 which seeks to address a problem that does not exist and assumes that municipal police officers would be unable to perform their duties.

The municipal police officers that we represent have the experience and expertise necessary to investigate fatal motor vehicle accidents and come to a satisfactory conclusion. This bill implies that these investigators may not be able to reach a conclusion when investigating an accident at a rate high enough to warrant this bill which is absolutely not the case.

Additionally, this bill will increase costs for municipalities through outsourcing work currently been done by municipal police officers. Council 4 opposes any outsourcing of work that is being done by municipal employees. Outsourcing leads to higher costs without a guarantee of better quality and a lack of accountability when the job is not done well.

Thank you for your consideration of our opposition to HB 5632.