



HARTFORD POLICE UNION

20-28 Sargeant Street Hartford, CT 06105

(office) 860-548-1435 (cell) 860-803-7085 JohnSzewczyk@hartfordpoliceunion.com

1968-2018
50 Years of Excellence

President Sergeant John Szewczyk
Office of the President

Statement of

**The Hartford Police Union Testimony
To the
Judiciary Committee**

In Support of Raised SB 241

Distinguished members of the Transportation Committee, my name is Sergeant John Szewczyk, President of the Hartford Police Union, the largest independent municipal police union in the state. We are comprised of Patrolmen, Detectives, Sergeants, Lieutenants, Captains, Matrons, Animal Control Officers, and Parking Controllers.

The Hartford Police Union supports **SB 241, *An Act Increasing the Penalties for the Intentional Injury or Killing of Police Animals or Dogs in Volunteer Canine Search and Rescue Teams.***

Many police departments across our state use police dogs. Police dogs serve in various job functions such as patrol, narcotics, and explosives detection. They also have to complete an intensive 15-week course at the Connecticut State Police K-9 Unit and become certified prior to working with their human police officer partner.

Like their human police partners, K-9 police dogs are always at risk of being seriously wounded or killed in the line of duty. Because of the dangers they face every day in law enforcement it is imperative that they have a legal system that provides adequate protection in the event that they are intentionally injured or killed. By increasing the penalties within the existing laws that protect our police dogs, the legislature is sending a clear message that they will not tolerate violent criminal acts against police dogs and K-9 search and rescue dogs.

I respectfully urge the members of this committee to support **SB 241, *An Act Increasing the Penalties for the Intentional Injury or Killing of Police Animals or Dogs in Volunteer Canine Search and Rescue Teams.***

Thank you for your consideration into this legislative matter. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns about this bill.

*Sgt. John Szewczyk
Hartford Police Union President*