



HARTFORD POLICE UNION

20-28 Sargeant Street Hartford, CT 06105

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

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President Sergeant John Szewczyk
Office of the President

Statement of

The Hartford Police Union Testimony
To the
Transportation Committee

In Opposition to Raised SB 388

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 opposes **SB 388, *An Act Establishing a Pilot Program for Speed Detecting Cameras and Concerning Speed Warning Signs*** for the following list of reasons and concerns:

- Unconstitutional selective law enforcement.
- Motorists have the right and opportunity to state their case.
- Motorists should have to face a police officer when issued a motor vehicle violation. A ticket should be handed directly to a motorist at the time of the motor vehicle offense.
- The speed cameras are NOT operated by sworn police officers. Instead this is outsourced to a private company. Police sometimes make judgement calls such as a woman in labor being rushed to the hospital or other medical emergencies.
- Speed cameras do not actually remove the immediate public safety threat to the community from drunk driving and reckless driving or other dangerous motor vehicle violations.
- Misidentification of the driver.
- Equipment malfunction and uncalibrated speed cameras.

I respectfully urge the members of this committee to oppose **SB 388, *An Act Establishing a Pilot Program for Speed Detecting Cameras and Concerning Speed Warning Signs***.

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