

Questions for the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection Commissioner Nominee

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The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) ([CGS §§ 29-1r, -310 & -1t](#))

DESPP consists of the (1) divisions of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, State Police, Statewide Emergency Telecommunications, and Scientific Services; (2) Police Officer Standards and Training Council; and (3) Fire Prevention and Control Commission.

The DESPP commissioner is the administrative and commanding head of the State Police and the administrative head of its Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security.

Among other things, the commissioner must (1) provide a coordinated program for protecting life and property and responding to statewide emergency management and homeland security issues; (2) investigate the cause, circumstances, and origins of fires involving property damage, personal injury, or death; and (3) serve on the Coordinating Advisory Board and State-wide Security Management Council, among other boards and councils.

General

1. How has your experience as Hartford's Police Chief prepared you to be commissioner?
2. What will be your top initiatives as commissioner?

3. Other than funding issues, what do you consider to be the greatest constraints on, and challenges for, DESPP? How prepared is the agency to meet these challenges? Given the challenges, what do you consider to be realistic goals for your first year or two as commissioner?
4. What are the challenges of managing and coordinating the many different and distinct entities comprising DESPP? Are there any functions assigned to DESPP that you do not think are a perfect fit for the agency?

Police

1. Are there any policies that you implemented or followed in Hartford that you think could be implemented for the State Police?
2. Under what circumstances, if any, would you support giving an independent oversight body the authority to monitor and review State Police policies? What should be the limits of its power?
3. Are there areas where the State Police and other law enforcement entities, including local police, could collaborate to cut costs and increase efficiency without compromising security? How would this type of collaboration affect the resident state trooper program?
4. What is the current number of troopers on staff? Do you believe the number is adequate? Do you think there should be a statutory minimum as there has been in the past (e.g., 1,248 sworn troopers)?
5. The governor recently [stated](#) that he would not pursue plans to build a new state police firearms training facility in Griswold. Does the State Police still need a new facility? If so, where do you think it should be located? Do you think the National Guard site is a viable alternative?
6. How well equipped is the State Police to deal with cybercrimes? What special problems, if any, has the increase in Internet use presented for law enforcement?

Fire Prevention

1. What is the biggest challenge facing the Fire Prevention and Control Commission?
2. How many fire schools do you think the state should have? Do you think the state should change how it funds these schools?

Emergency Management and Homeland Security

1. How prepared is the state for a natural disaster? What further steps could DESPP take to prepare for the next emergency?
2. To what extent is terrorism a threat in Connecticut? How prepared is the state to deal with such a threat? How big is the Connecticut Critical Infrastructure Protection Unit? Typically, to what kinds of threats does it respond?
3. Do you think police dispatch centers should be consolidated? If so, should it be done through a mandate or through incentives? How many centers do you think Connecticut needs?

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