



# CONNECTICUT POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

365 Silas Deane Highway-Suite 1A, Wethersfield, Connecticut 06109

(860) 757-3909 Fax: (860) 436-6054

Web site: [www.cpcanet.org](http://www.cpcanet.org)

Chairmen Gaston and Boyd, Ranking Members Cicarella and Howard, and distinguished members of the Public Safety and Security Committee:

The Connecticut Police Chiefs' Association (CPCA) is an association that represents the interests of all the police chiefs in the state. Collectively, the members of the association oversee the operation of over 7,000 law enforcement personnel and close to 100 law enforcement agencies. CPCA would like to offer its comments on the following bills:

## **Raised Bill No. 1022, An Act Requiring Police Officers To Provide A Driver With The Reason For A Traffic Stop And Concerning Certain Police Officer Training**

The CPCA is concerned with certain provisions in this bill as written. To be clear, the CPCA does not object to Section 1 of the bill requiring a police officer to notify a motorist of the reason they are being stopped, assuming that a verbal notification at the outset of the stop will be sufficient.

CPCA is concerned with the addition of a data field to the traffic stop statistics form that officers complete after each traffic stop (Sec.3, b, 1, E). The intent of that data collection process is to allow for analysis of demographic information about traffic stops. The addition of a field regarding the notification of the reason for the stop adds nothing to that analysis. Adding data collection mandates to the Alvin Penn Act should be reserved for data that adds to the analysis and understanding of traffic stops in Connecticut.

We are also concerned with the provision (Sec.3, b, 1, G, iii) that requires "notice to be given to the person stopped of the alleged traffic violation or other violation that caused the stop to be made." Our objection here is predicated on our understanding that this section requires a separate written notice be given to the motorist at the conclusion of a traffic stop in addition to the verbal notice given at the outset of the stop. This requirement will be burdensome because there is no mechanism to provide such notice if the officer wants to issue a verbal warning for the observed violation. The unintended consequence may be an increase in written warnings or infraction tickets because those are paper documents that include the violation which presumably will satisfy the notice provision. The criminal justice system is just starting to catch up with technological advances that have been commonplace in other fields for decades. E-citation and e-warning have streamlined the process of conducting a traffic stop. Those systems automatically generate the complaint notice required by law, reduce the amount of time an officer and a motorist are stopped on the side of the road, and facilitate the completion and electronic submission of racial profiling data. I do not see another way to provide the contemplated notice other than by issuing some sort of paperwork to

them. No such notice currently exists, so a new form will have to be designed, purchased by municipalities and the state, and carried by officers while on-duty. Ideally, the form would be self-duplicating so there would be a copy for the motorist and a carbon copy for the police department, which becomes a paper record that must be filed and retained as a public record.

Section 2 of the raised bill requires the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POSTC) to develop a training curriculum that already exists. All the topics in the proposed bill are already mandated courses included in the POST Training Program, as outlined below:

- Use of Force and De-escalation Training – Following the Police Accountability Bill in 2020, the POSTC established a committee to create a Use of Force (UOF) Policy, which was approved by the Council on November 12, 2020. Shortly thereafter, a second committee was established to create a Mandatory Training UOF Program, that included updated de-escalation training. This course is being taught to all recruits in the academy, as well as in-service officers.
- “Customer Service” – The 400 block of the recruit curriculum includes Human Behavior/Interpersonal Relations, Police and the Public (403), and Blue Courage, all of which address the interaction between the Public and the Police. In addition, the POSTC added Procedural Justice to the recruit curriculum in 2020. This training, amongst other things, highlights the value of treating others with respect and dignity and allowing people to be heard. The 400 block is now referred to as the 400A block.
- Diversity and Bias – The 400B block of the training curriculum includes the relevant subjects to include, Cultural Awareness and Diversity, Fair and Impartial Policing, Anti-Racism, Implicit Bias and the Social Justice/Community Forum.

### **HB 6623, An Act Requiring A Memorandum Of Understanding Between The Commissioner Of Emergency Services And Public Protection And Central Connecticut State University For Police Detective And Other Training**

The CPCA is supportive of HB 6623. This bill would allow Central Connecticut State University and the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection to enter into a memorandum of understanding to establish an advanced training program for officers and detectives. Connecticut has the best trained law enforcement in the nation and detectives in this state are well trained and thorough in the investigations they conduct. The types of investigations police detectives have been called upon to conduct have become increasingly complex. The CPCA supports all training initiatives that increase the efficiency and effectiveness of law enforcement.

## **HB 6624, An Act Concerning Retired Police And Parole Officers Providing School Security And Peace Officers Carrying Firearms On School Property**

The CPCA also supports HB 6624. This bill would allow sworn police officers to carry firearms on school property whether they were in the performance of their official duties or off-duty. Law enforcement officers are members of society just like anyone else: They pick their kids up from school, attend school sporting events, and other school activities. There are times when an officer comes straight from work to pick up their child from school or attend a school related event on school grounds. There is common belief that officers are “always on-duty” and are expected to intervene when life safety is at risk. We know all too well the horrific incidents that have happened in schools across the country, and right here in Connecticut, where rapid intervention by law enforcement may have prevented the loss of life. Moreover, under CGS 54-1F, all Connecticut Police Officers maintain the ability to make felony arrests whether on or off duty, on school grounds and anywhere else in the state. Additionally, officers who serve as School Resource Officers frequently return to their schools while off-duty to support the school community by attending after school programs or sporting events. Under current law, they would be committing a crime if they carried their firearms onto school property even when many people present know them as police officers and would expect them to take appropriate police action in the event of an emergency. As CGS 53a-217b is currently written, if off-duty officers carry their firearms or have their firearms secured in their cars while anywhere on school property, they are committing a Class D Felony.