

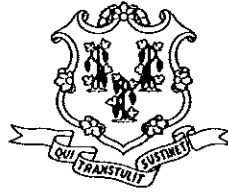
The Connecticut General Assembly

Task Force on Victim Privacy and the Public's Right to Know

Co-Chairs:

Rep. Angel Arce, State Representative, Hartford

Don DeCesare, President and General Manager of
WLIS-AM in Old Saybrook
and WMRD-AM in Middletown



Legislative Office Building, Room 2200
Hartford, CT 06106

Phone: (860) 240-8517

Fax: (860) 240-8429

Email: VPPR@cga.ct.gov

Wednesday, November 27, 2013, 9:30 am, Legislative Office Building, Room 1C Meeting of:

Task Force on Victim Privacy and The Public's Right To Know

Members present: Rep. Angel Arce, Co-Chair; Don DeCesare, Co-Chair; Garvin Ambrose; Reuben Bradford; Sen. Eric Coleman; Klarn DePalma; William Dunlap; Sen. Len Fasano; Kevin Kane; Antoinette Webster (associate of Commissioner Bradford); Brian Koonz; Jodie Mozder-Gil; Colleen Murphy; Jim Smith; Andrew Woods; Rep. Hovey

- I. Meeting called to order at 10:07 by Co-Chair Don DeCesare. Announced rules of safety and security for room 1C

Approval of minutes of previous meeting of November 13, 2013. Motion to approve by Sen. Fasano, seconded by Rep. Arce, approved.

- II. Motion from 11/13, regarding age of witness to be made public, was tabled again.

Discussion followed re:

Part I. Only to apply to crimes involving drugs and violence.

Part II. Legislature needs to study further re: age.

Atty. Kane questioned why sexual assault is not included, various sexual assault is not necessarily violent.

Further comments by Rep. Hovey; Jim Smith; Atty. Webster; Sen. Fasano; Rep. Arce; Atty. Murphy; Atty. Storey and Atty. Kane.

Atty. Kane discussed that there are adequate remedies in the courts to provide information, but to be mixed with FOIA and public information.

Co-Chair, Rep. Arce submitted proposal for the purpose of beginning a conversation, hoping for a balance from the Task Force. Co-Chair, DeCesare suggested offering multiple proposals. Four written proposals were then offered from Rep. Arce, Sen. Fasano, Atty. Kane and Mr. DePalma.

Proponents explained each proposal. Rep. Arce stated his desire to protect victims' rights, but in his community information to protect the accused is very important. He would like to see a balance reached.

Atty. Kane suggested that perhaps a give and take discussion would work.

Jim Smith proposed tabling issue on minor identification in the interest of proceeding at a more efficient pace. Co-Chair DeCesare withdrew minor proposal temporarily.

Atty. Kane spoke regarding 911 calls.

Jim Smith spoke of Freedom of the Press, invoking words from Thomas Jefferson, also saying that feelings of traumatized families should not dictate public policy. He pointed to several cases where information was critical to solving the cases. He emphasized that you don't solve problems by hiding information.

Sen. Fasano suggested following Federal Law, as regarding the Favish case where the Supreme Court ruled that photos of Vince Foster's body not be shown.

Klarn DePalma suggested that an archived keeping of records be placed in a central location such as the Attorney General's Office or State Police Headquarters in Middletown. All information would be kept there for viewing, not copying, under certain circumstances of proved need for information. Discussion followed with Atty. Kane, Atty. Storey, Professor Dunlap, Jim Smith and Rep. Arce.

Atty. Kane offered that there are "rules of discovery" which should not be dealt with re: FOIA. The rules are very extensive and can always change.

Atty. Webster suggested a revision in wording which would strike "homicide" and leave issue open to other crimes as well.

Participating in further discussion were Attys. Murphy, Webster and Kane, Sen. Fasano, Mr. Koonz and Ms. Mozder-Gil.

Co-Chair DeCesare stated that it seems there are points of agreement conceptually and that members should read proposals for next meeting.

Mr. DePalma said that his proposal represents a huge compromise from his industry.

III. Co-Chairs Arce and DeCesare wished everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving.

IV. Meeting adjourned at 12:03 PM.

Submitted by:

Barbara Gordon
Asst. Clerk

Ken Neal
Clerk

BG:kls