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ARE YOU 18 to 25 YEARS OLD? IF YES...

WE NEED YOU!



TO SIGN UP and Share **3-MINUTE TESTIMONY** at the
CT Police Transparency and Accountability Listening Sessions

Why Now?

**Why Does Your Voice Matter?
How Does Public Testimony Work?**

Participation in public testimony gives YOU the opportunity to show YOUR support for a particular topic being considered by the legislature. This is an important way for people's voices to be heard, so that policymakers can identify and address policy through listening to voices from the community. Public testimony also gives each of us an opportunity to bridge the gap between the community and policymakers, in which community voices are heard and actionable change is made in response to their public testimony.

Public testimony can be oral, written, or BOTH (preferred!).
Some things to consider when giving testimony would be, life history, turning points, what problems do you face, how has your life been changed.

Modified from the New Haven REACH Coalition Template for Testimony available [here](#).



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Would It Help to Listen to Some Examples? (3 minutes each)

Each example below provides a different perspective on providing testimony that may help you decide how it is best to proceed with your own testimony. These testimonies were offered during the initial listening session hosted in September.

September 3rd, 2020 at 10am

- Testimony #2, Ms. Maya Donald
 - o <https://ct-n.com/ctnplayer.asp?odID=17654>
 - Testimony begins at 23:45
 - Example of informal/impromptu testimony

September 10th, 2020 at 6pm

- Testimony #5, Mr. Jesse Ede
 - o <https://ct-n.com/ctnplayer.asp?odID=17674>
 - Testimony begins at 1:07:55
 - Example of a pre-written testimony

September 17th, 2020 at 10am

- Testimony #5, Ms. Iliana Pujols
 - o <https://ct-n.com/ctnplayer.asp?odID=17697>
 - Testimony begins at 47:15
 - Example of testifying on behalf of an organization/data-driven testimony

September 17th, 2020 at 6pm

- Testimony #2, Mr. Alvin Chege
 - o <https://ct-n.com/ctnplayer.asp?odID=17704>
 - Testimony begins at 15:00
 - Example of testifying on behalf of a group/specific issue

You can also read this [written testimony](#) already presented to the PTAFT by Iliana Pujols, Director of Community Connections at the Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliance.

Modified from the New Haven REACH Coalition Template for Testimony available [here](#).



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Have you asked yourself any of the following questions? Are you willing to share your thoughts with the Police Training and Accountability Task Force?

1. What is qualified immunity? What does it mean to the profession of policing?
2. What are some of the repercussions for community member in response to eliminating qualified immunity?
3. What are some of the repercussions for police officers in response to eliminating qualified immunity?
4. What does police oversight mean to you? What does it mean to the police?
5. Does probable cause warrant a search? Is probable cause to vague? Should a firm definition be developed? How can we make the use of probable cause more transparent for people in the community?
6. What is the duty of police officers as it relates to stolen items, such as a vehicle?
7. Should we decriminalize public drinking, loitering or disorderly contact?
8. Are we asking too much of the police?
9. What duties should a police officer be responsible for?
10. How important is strengthening police/community relations?
11. Decriminalization
12. What specific areas could police officers benefit from receiving training?
13. How can policing be cooperative with the community as opposed to being adversarial?
14. How can we (the community) ensure the safety and wellbeing of police officers?
15. How can police officers ensure the safety and well-being of community members?
16. Is there a correlation between police performance and budget?
17. How can police budgets be used more effectively?
18. Does technology help or hinder police officers in their work?
19. What does the use of modern technology mean for the use of discretion in policing?
20. Are community members ready for transparency in policing?
21. Are the police ready for transparency in policing?

If these questions have peaked your interest, you are ready to move through our step by step guide to prepare your testimony on the next page!

*****REMEMBER*****

ANY AND ALL 18-25 YEAR OLDS ARE WELCOME TO OFFER ORAL AND/OR WRITTEN TESTIMONY DURING THIS EVENT!

ANYONE AND EVERYONE CAN SUBMIT WRITTEN TESTIMONY AT ANY TIME BY EMAILING IT TO PTATFTestimony@cga.ct.gov

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Template for Public Testimony in Preparation for CT Police Transparency and Accountability Listening Sessions

Overall Checklist for Giving Testimony

- STEP 1- Make an Introduction
 - a. When testifying be sure to begin with:
 - i. Your full name
 - ii. Your age
 - iii. What city you reside in, if applicable
 - iv. Your college or organizational affiliation, if applicable
 - v. Your major/ concentration area, if applicable
- STEP 2- Give a Presentation of Your Perspective or a Story
 - a. State the specific issue you wish to speak about, explain your position on the CT Police Transparency and Accountability Bill, or provide the story of your experience with law enforcement.
 - b. *Some prompts you may use to inspire your testimony include, but are not limited to:
 - i. Have you had any negative or positive experiences with law enforcement that you would like to share with the legislature?
 - ii. Do you have suggestions for the Task Force to improve police transparency or accountability in the state of Connecticut?
 - iii. Are there specific issues in policing that you are passionate about and would like to bring attention to (ex. Training, hiring, interactions with specific communities, use of force, etc.)?
 - iv. Do you support the CT Police Accountability Bill? If so, why?



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- STEP 3- Summarize and Provide Recommendations
 - a. After stating your position or sharing your story, summarize or recap your testimony.
 - b. You may also provide suggestions or recommendations to the Task Force about how they should further address police accountability in the state of Connecticut.

- STEP 4- Wrap Up and Thank the Task Force
 - a. It is customary to thank the panel for listening and for the opportunity to speak.
 - b. You may also offer to answer any questions the panelists may have for you.

Final Checklist before Giving Testimony

- Have you [signed up to give testimony](#)?
- Did you [read your testimony out loud](#) to proof read it?
- Did you [schedule an appointment](#) with the writing center to get help?
- Did you complete steps 1-4 on pages 4 and 5?
- Show up to the LISTENING SESSION! Be sure to put it on your calendar!!



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Final Tips for Testifying

1. If you include data or statistics to support your position, be sure to fact-check or confirm the information!
 - a. Contact [Dr. Danielle Cooper](#) or [Dr. Lillie Macias](#) with any questions about your data.
2. It's OKAY to get personal – these are very sensitive issues and using personal experience or emotion to relay your message is a useful tool during public testimony.
3. Prepare your testimony ahead of time
 - a. Come prepared with notes or a complete written testimony to aid you.
 - b. It is not uncommon for folks to write out their entire testimony and read from that document during oral testimony.
 - c. Each testimony can only last 3 minutes. You will make the most of your time if you have prepared in advance.
4. Don't worry about being perfect or being nervous. It is natural to feel some jitters. This is true for many people!



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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

[10 Things We Know About Race and Policing in the U.S.](#) – Pew Research (June 2020)

[History of Policing: How did we get here?](#) – National Public Radio (NPR; July 2020)

[How I Became a Police Abolitionist](#) – The Atlantic (July 2020)

[Issue Brief of Raise the Age and 21st Century Policing](#)- Tow Youth Justice Institute

[Juvenile Arrest Rates, 2018](#)- Office of Juvenile Justice of Delinquency Prevention

[Law Enforcement](#)- National Institute of Justice (n.d.)

[Policing Connecticut's Hallways: The Prevalence and Impact of School Resource Officers in Connecticut](#)- Connecticut Voices for Children (April 2019)

[Policing the Police](#) –PBS/Frontline Documentary- September 2020

[Previous Issues of ACJS Today](#)- Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (1979-2020)

[Waterbury public schools called police on children 200 times in six months, Connecticut's child advocate says](#)- Hartford Courant (September 2020)

[What Is Qualified Immunity, and What Does It Have to Do With Police Reform?](#) – Law Fare Blog (June 2020)