



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES & PUBLIC PROTECTION
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

March 9, 2021
Public Safety Committee Testimony

Good morning Senator Bradley, Representative Horn and distinguished members of the Public Safety and Security Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments on some of the proposed legislation before you today. I will provide comments on two of the proposals before you today and would offer my assistance if needed should these proposals move forward, always keeping in mind costs and efficient agency operations. I would now like to share some comments on the following bills.

S.B. No. 122 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A UNIT WITHIN THE DIVISION OF STATE POLICE TO INVESTIGATE HATE CRIMES AND CRIMINAL ACTS COMMITTED BY EXTREMIST GROUPS-This bill would establish a unit within the Connecticut State Police to investigate hate crimes and criminal acts committed by extremist groups. We have had on-going discussions regarding this bill with the sponsor and committee leadership. Should this legislation move forward, I am committed to working out agreed upon language to achieve the goal of the bill.

HB. No. 6598 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROHIBITION AGAINST HIRING POLICE OFFICERS DISMISSED FOR MALFEASANCE OR WHO RESIGNED OR RETIRED WHILE UNDER INVESTIGATION-This bill is a proposal put forward by DESSP and the Police Officer Standards and Training Council. We are in full support of this legislation. It is vital that we hold our law enforcement to the highest standards and this bill would clarify the ability of the Police Officer Standards and Training Council to enforce the prohibition on employment of police officers who have been terminated, resigned, or retired while under investigation for malfeasance or serious misconduct by denying or withholding certification. The proposal also includes a due process for police officers to review and remove said prohibition.

Thank you for allowing me comment on these pieces of legislation.

