

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE,

TIME CONSTRAINTS MIGHT PREVENT ME FROM DELVING INTO THE DETAILS OF THE PROVISIONS YOU WILL BE MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS ABOUT, BUT I WOULD AT LEAST POINT TO A MAJOR FAILURE IN APPROACHING PROBLEMS WITH A PURPOSE IN MIND. WHAT IS YOUR PURPOSE?

IF I HAVE TO INFER THE PURPOSE FROM THE PROPOSED "SOLUTIONS", I DON'T SEE ANY ATTEMPT TO BUILD COMMUNITY POLICING AND REDUCE CRIME, NOR TO ESTABLISH ORDER, NOR TO ATTEND TO THE WELL-BEING OF OUR COMMUNITIES, AND SURELY NOT TO CONNECT AND HEAL.

WE ARE LIVING IN A FRACTURED SOCIETY, AND INSTEAD OF SEEKING REUNIFICATION, ALL YOU DO IS DEEPEN THOSE FRACTURES TO GAIN A POLITICAL ADVANTAGE OVER IMAGINARY ADVERSARIES, AT THE EXPENSES OF THE PEOPLE WHO NEED US THE MOST. I SAY "IMAGINARY" BECAUSE IF WE LOOK DEEPLY INTO WHAT OUR SOCIETY NEEDS, RIGHT NOW, WE FIND A DESPERATE NEED FOR PEACE, SAFETY, AND A STRAIGHT AVENUE OUT OF VICTIMHOOD. THERE ARE THE ULTIMATE GOALS OF ANY CIVILIZED SOCIETY, AND THERE SHOULDN'T BE ANY ADVERSARIES.

THE PAST IS IN THE PAST, BUT WHAT WE NEED TO DO NOW IS STAND SIDE BY SIDE AND CONTINUE TO GROW TOGETHER INTO A CULTURE OF MUTUAL RESPECT AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

NOW, INSTEAD OF BUILDING A BOND BETWEEN POLICE AND THE COMMUNITY YOU START BY "REDEFINING" THE ROLE OF POLICING AND RELEGATING IT TO A STRICT LAW ENFORCEMENT FUNCTION, THEREFORE ELIMINATING ALL POSSIBLE POSITIVE INTERACTIONS (EMS CALLS, MVA'S EVEN WITHOUT INJURIES, CIVIL CASES IN WHICH WE CAN CERTAINLY EDUCATE THE PUBLIC) THAT DO HELP IN BUILDING TRUST AND ESTABLISH A DEEPER, MEANINGFUL CONNECTION WITH OUR COMMUNITIES. OXYMORONIC, TO SAY THE LEAST.

THEN YOU GO FROM DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS (WHICH, BY THE WAY, ALSO CREATE A HIGHER POTENTIAL FOR ACCIDENTS ON OUR HIGHWAYS), TO ISSUING STOPPED OPERATORS A "RECEIPT" WITH THE REASON FOR THE STOP AND THEIR OWN DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION (AND WE ALREADY HAVE THAT, IT'S CALLED "TICKET"), TO THE EXTREMELY VAGUE RULES ABOUT USE OF FORCE THAT ARE GOING TO PUT BOTH OFFICERS AND THE PUBLIC IN DANGER. AND HOW IS ALL THIS GOING TO GET RID OF THE "BAD APPLES"?

ABOUT THE USE OF FORCE AND MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY: FOR THOSE WHO DON'T KNOW, THERE IS A STATUTE IN CT THAT SAYS CITIZENS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO RESIST AN UNLAWFUL ARREST. REDRESS ISSUES WILL BE ADDRESSED AT A LATER TIME THROUGH LEGAL RECOURSE, BUT THE STATUTE IS IN PLACE TO SAVE LIVES, AND WAS CLEARLY CREATED BY LEGISLATORS WHO, CONTRARILY TO WHAT WE SEE TODAY, STILL CARED ABOUT THE LIVES OF BOTH THE PEOPLE AND THE POLICE.

I DON'T HAVE CHILDREN OF MY OWN, BUT EVERY SINGLE CHILD IN MY COMMUNITY IS MY CHILD, AND I WILL FIGHT HARD TO MAKE SURE THEY STAY SAFE AND HEALTHY, BUT YOU ARE TAKING AWAY THE ABILITY TO PROTECT THEM. OFFICERS CAN BARELY PROTECT THEMSELVES, AND NOW THEY CAN NO LONGER PREVENT ILLEGAL GUNS FROM GOING ACROSS OUR TOWNS AND THREATEN OUR COMMUNITIES, AND THEY CAN NO LONGER STOP THE TRAFFIC OF ILLEGAL DRUGS IN OUR STREETS. IN THE MEANTIME WE SEE A WELL DOCUMENTED INCREASE IN VIOLENT CRIMES AND OPIOID CRISIS.

EVEN MORE CONCERNING, YOU ARE CLEARLY WORKING TOWARDS TAKING CONTROL OVER PEOPLE'S DECISION-MAKING. NO MORE SEARCHES BASED ON CONSENT: PEOPLE WERE PERFECTLY CAPABLE OF DECIDING WHETHER THEY WANTED TO HAVE THEIR VEHICLE SEARCHED, ESPECIALLY AFTER THEY WERE TOLD THAT THEIR CONSENT WAS NOT MANDATORY AND THEY COULD REFUSE AT ANY TIME. THIS LEGISLATION IS AN INSULT TO PEOPLE'S INTELLIGENCE. YOU ARE BASICALLY TELLING PEOPLE: "TRUE, YOU DO HAVE CHOICES, BUT YOU ARE TOO STUPID TO KNOW WHAT TO CHOOSE, THEREFORE WE WILL CHOOSE FOR YOU", SO "NO" TO SEARCHES, EVEN IF YOU WANTED TO SAY YES. BUT IT IS ALSO A "NO" TO YOUR SAFETY, "NO" TO YOUR RIGHT TO MAKE YOUR OWN DECISIONS, AND "NO" TO AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONNECT WITH THOSE WHO REALLY CARE ABOUT YOU AND YOUR FAMILY. AND WHERE WILL YOU STOP TAKING PEOPLE'S CHOICES AWAY?

KNOW THAT IF I AM HERE FIGHTING IT'S BECAUSE I CARE, AND I SPEAK ON BEHALF OF ALL THE OFFICER WHO ALSO CARE, AND WE WON'T LET OUR COMMUNITIES DOWN. THE DAY WE STOP FIGHTING WILL BE THE DAY WE STOP CARING, AND THE DAY WE STOP CARING WILL BE THE DAY WE MIGHT NO LONGER WISH TO WEAR A BADGE.

I WILL ALWAYS STAND WITH THOSE WHO WANT TO HEAL AND REBUILD TRUST TOGETHER. SO FAR, YOU DON'T SEEM TO BE THE ONES.