



NORTH ANDOVER POLICE

DEPARTMENT

--- Community Partnership ---



To: Chair Aaron Michlewitz
Chair Claire Cronin
From: Lt. Daniel P. Lanen
Re: Bill S2820
Date: July 17,2020

Dear Chairs,

I am writing in regards to S2820. I do not agree with the majority of the proposed police reforms. Many of the proposals will cause a flight from policing during a time when we are already facing a recruitment and retention crisis. Agencies throughout the country cannot fill open positions now and legislation of this type would cause many to leave the profession and hinder recruitment efforts.

You will hear from many what a disaster these proposals will incur and I will review some of the main issues later in this letter. I would like to begin by making two proposals that would improve policing. If you are interested in making sure all departments are professional you could require all departments to attain the Massachusetts Accreditation Council Certification. This is a timely and costly process that would require funding.

In regards to the Use of Force, the FBI has a national Use of Force data site that has been implemented a few years ago. In order to keep track of use of force data, you could require all departments to use this mechanism. The system is already in place and would not cost the State any funds.

Some of the major issues with the proposals are the following;

Qualified Immunity: There have been no issues demonstrated with the current system. Police are sued, disciplined and prosecuted under the current statutes.

Decertification Process: The proposals eliminate Due Process rights of Law Enforcement. Why are we not afforded the basic rights of other citizens?

Makeup of the Board: Why are we the only profession to be reviewed by members who are not in the profession?

Reporting Mechanisms: The required reporting mechanisms proposed for any citizen contact are onerous and have no clear guidance for standards and reporting requirements.

We would all like more training and education. However, it is odd that the legislature is now focusing on this. You have defunded the Quinn Bill. Had two years of \$0 appropriated for police training and waived police training requirements. The legislature has never in recent history prioritized police training. In a forty billion-dollar budget the legislature has had issues funding police training. Most recently, the legislature passed a new car rental tax for police training. If training is a priority why was it never given priority in your budgets?

We are all in this together and any legislation should be researched and well thought out. This legislation as proposed is a danger to the citizens of the Commonwealth. It does not improve community relations and will cause a shortage of available police. I have already been approached by members in my department who are looking to move to other states or apply for federal jobs. One member's wife has told him to leave the job. This will be the norm throughout the Commonwealth and it will take many years to recover. What do we do in the meantime? How do we fill positions? How do we provide services?

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I am available any time to talk.



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