

Town of Lunenburg, Massachusetts

POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF

James P. Marino
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655 Massachusetts Ave.
Lunenburg, MA 01462

Via email to: Testimony.HWMJudiciary@mahouse.gov
Re: Concerns to Senate 2820 as Amended

July 17, 2020

Dear Chair Aaron Michlewitz and Chair Claire Cronin,

Please accept the following testimony with regard to SB2820 - *An Act to reform police standards and shift resources to build a more equitable, fair and just commonwealth that values Black lives and communities of color.*

We, the members of the Lunenburg Police Department, fully support the letter that was provided to you by the Presidents of the Massachusetts Chief of Police Association and the Massachusetts Major City Police Chiefs Association.

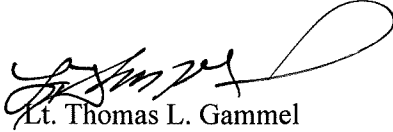
We support legislation that is well thought out which is fair and equitable to all of the stake holders involved. We would welcome ongoing dialogue to promote a healthier relationship with all of our communities within the Commonwealth and law enforcement agencies. With that being said, we encourage our legislative leaders to include members of the law enforcement community to be a part of the ongoing dialogue for SB2820. Without the inclusion of the law enforcement community we feel that unintended consequences could arise from the passing of this legislation.

We also feel that this legislation is being rushed through, and bypassing normal process that has been followed for numerous bills that were introduced to the House and Senate. With such a comprehensive bill that was introduced one would think that committee hearings and public hearings would be held throughout the Commonwealth which would allow all of the stake holders to have a voice in such an important issue.

We ask that you accept the recommendations that were presented by the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association, and the Massachusetts Major City Police Chiefs Association. We also hope that you would give due consideration to what has been outlined to you in the letter.

Thank you for your consideration and your efforts as we navigate through this important legislation.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Gammel", with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Lt. Thomas L. Gammel
Lunenburg Police Department