



BLACKSTONE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Gregory Gilmore - Chief of Police

July 16, 2020

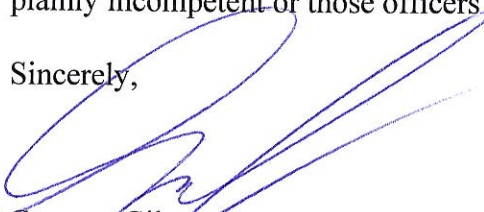
Chairman Michlewitz
Chairwoman Cronin
Member of the House Committee on Ways and Means
House Members of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary
Boston, MA 02133

RE: S2820 - 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

House Members,

As Chief of Police for the Town of Blackstone, I am always receptive to differing ideas and views on policing in these difficult times. The members of this community and this department want a good police reform bill that is effective and provides answers to many of the questions coming to light due to the recent events occurring across the nation. What our department does not want is a bill that is rushed through the house and senate without the proper discussion, dialog and input from the appropriate stake holders. Only with this input will a bill that addresses all the concerns voiced over the past few months be a viable option. My greatest concern is the revision of the qualified immunity status that provides protection to my officers from frivolous lawsuits, harassment and liability when they are reasonably performing their duties. Removing qualified immunity will deter officers from doing the important jobs that they are paid to do and that they want to do. It provides protection to officers acting reasonably, and provides no protection to the plainly incompetent or those officers who knowingly violate the law.

Sincerely,


Gregory Gilmore
Chief of Police
Blackstone, MA