



HUDSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

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RICHARD P. DiPERSIO
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July 17, 2020

Via email to: Testimony.HWMJudiciary@mahouse.gov

Re: Concerns to Senate 2820 as amended

Dear Chairwoman Claire Cronin and Chairman Aaron Michlewitz,

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.

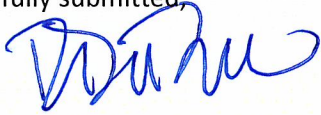
I fully endorse the opinion as expressed by the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association. As a police leader I fully embrace the challenges that lie ahead and I will continue to instill strong values into my department, hold all of my staff accountable for all of our actions, and will continue to work through these difficult times to help build a stronger community here in Hudson. I ask that police leaders be part of these conversations as they pertain to police reform in the Commonwealth.

I was appointed Chief of Police here in Hudson on March 1st of this year, after twenty-two years of service here to the town. I can say that we have an extremely dedicated police department, who work tirelessly each and every day to engage with our community and provide exceptional policer service to them. That has always been the case here. We are all angry at what happened to George Floyd in Minneapolis, and we condemn the actions of those former police officers. But to judge all police officers on the actions of a few is wrong and it is unfair. We agree and embrace reform because it is important. But reform should not be implemented without having conversations with all stakeholders. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us that conduct and information must be carefully analyzed and all decisions must be based on facts, not on opinions. This holds true for reform. What happened in Minneapolis does not happen here in the Commonwealth. We have the best trained, best educated police officers anywhere in the world. Statistics show just that. This is a time we need to work together to come up with viable solutions that are in the best interest of the communities we serve, while at the same time provide support, resources, and protections for police officers who perform their jobs with professionalism, compassion, and dedication each day.

I have had conversations with the officers of the Hudson Police Department. Both rookie officers and veteran officers. While they continue to go out and perform their jobs with the same dedication and professionalism as they always have and what is expected of them, they are scared. The bill as proposed by the Senate will have dire consequences on not only policing and the ability to hire and retain officers, but also on the people and the communities we serve. Lack of trust will continue, the number and quality of police applicants will diminish, police will be forced into a situation where they become

reactive only, and the anti-police rhetoric will place officers in danger and divide communities. I ask that you do not rush reform. Work with all sides to come up with solutions that focus on the outstanding policing here in the Commonwealth, and show support for the men and woman who do their jobs honorably.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "DiPersio", written in a cursive style.

Richard P. DiPersio
Chief of Police