



TOWN OF PEMBROKE

Police Department

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Richard D. Wall
CHIEF OF POLICE

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“To Protect with Honor and to Serve with Pride”

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Dear Chair Aaron Michlewitz and Chair Claire Cronin,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to express my thoughts and concerns with regards 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.

Our police officers have been challenged to do more than enforce laws, take reports and keep the peace. Our Police Officers are challenged every shift to go out and learn something new about our town and to engage with our residents, not just on calls, but by officers initiating positive contacts. Our Police Officers have been challenged to become a resource for the community. Why? Because Police Officers see things that no one else has access to. Why? Because people call the police when they are in crisis and we respond. Why? Because Police Officers want to serve. Why? Because they care.

Over the past 5 years the model for Plymouth County Police Officers responding to calls has been to survey all scenes and look for the signs and root causes of the problems that they were dispatched or to survey for other care issues and then assist in help solving those issues or direct and connect resources to those individuals. The Plymouth County Outreach Program then grew into the Plymouth County Hub Program where Police Officers are partners with most of our local resources and we all work together to help our residents. Massachusetts has a tremendous amount of resources, but we have found that there is a serious disconnect with people in need and in crisis who may be unaware, unable to pay or sometimes just unwilling to reach out. This is where our local Police Officers play a critical role, as liaisons and as partners.

I know that you all are pressed into making changes but do your members really know what their Police Departments do every day? If you polled your members would they be able to tell you the last time, if ever, that they actually sat down with members of their police departments and discussed issues, policies and practices? All I can ask is that you lead a fair and comprehensive study of our present practices and then I will know that any changes will be informed and just.

Respectfully,

Chief Richard D Wall



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