

# Defensive Action and Response Committee proposal

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- Domain: *Rights Defense, Litigious Action, Activism, Firearms, Carry, Abuses Under Color of Law*

## Summary

The CCDL currently has no distinct plan and organization in place to defend members from abuses against the civil rights that CCDL advocates and supports. It is important that people or organizations that violate the rights of CCDL members are handled in a manner that will curtail the abuse in the future and will further the effectiveness of the CCDL.

Proposed is a group that will use and support the resources of the CCDL that will organize defensive actions against people and organizations that work to violate the rights of CCDL members and citizens of Connecticut. The group will collect resources in a separate fund where appropriate to pursue various methods of action. This action may include public relations campaigns, press work and relations, promotional material and when necessary, litigation.

Many of the core members that will get this organization started are already involved in promoting rights like open carry and defending citizens against permit law violations, and have been involved in the legal and publicity issues regarding the defense of these rights against abuse.

The goal of this organization will be to operate off of voluntary donations from the CCDL membership and/or the CCDL general fund until such point that it can become self funding.

Defending the CCDL membership and other citizens in the state against rights abuses will assist the CCDL in raising funds, gaining memberships and keeping the existing membership in good spirits and legal standing.

## 2. The Problem

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Citizens and CCDL members across the state are being harassed, detained and arrested for lawful actions. They are having their rights stepped on by government officials who don't follow the laws they have sworn to protect. These abuses are often abuses of constitutional rights.

These abuses aggravate people's opinions of the officials in charge of these abuses, and they do not further the goals and intentions of the CCDL and the CCDL membership. Threats and intimidations by officials and enemies of the constitution are resulting in the virtual but evident loss of rights.

### 3. Key Use Case

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When a Connecticut citizen or CCDL member has an issue where their rights are abused by authorities or other entities, they would come to the committee where the issue can be discussed, examined and dissected. The committee would collect further information as necessary to ascertain the validity of the presented stories and statements. A decision amongst the committee would be made to determine if this is an appropriate situation for the committee to handle. If the committee approves, a defense strategy would be made, along with the allocation of proper resources and personnel. The committee would have multiple active volunteers that could launch a series of press releases, media information campaigns, flyer postings and handouts, FOI requests, letters to officials, etc.

### 4. Technical Approach

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Within the committee there will need to be multiple specialties and tactics.

- Publicity. (Newspaper, radio, flyers, promotions, internet)
- Intelligence gathering. (Investigative personnel, information requests, reporting, FOIA requests)
- Sharing/consultation/communication. (Other clubs, other states, other organizations)
- Litigation. (Smaller seed cases will lead into larger and more important cases. Legal counsel would likely be retained and consulted with an integrated and unified strategy.)
- Education. (Public and officials need to be educated with regards to our causes and issues so that any media attention or information being spread is more effective.)

#### **Existing actors**

Richard Burgess

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#### **New actors**

Any and all members interested.

### 5. Support & Resources

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It is the hope of the committee that CCDL will assist with the necessary base funding and resources possibly through voluntary donations from the 1000+ members of the CCDL. Other friends of the CCDL might also be contacted to gain additional support and resources. Because of this, the CCDL will need to

provide the committee with a way to contact the CCDL membership, request assistance and keep membership informed in more ways than just the monthly meetings.

## 6. Open Issues

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The committee will have to secure base funding to start seed activities to make money. This does not need to be a significant up front expense of the CCDL, but could be assisted by whatever donations the executive board sees fit to authorize.

The committee will need to be able to have the ability to contact the membership of the CCDL, either through the CCDL executive board or directly.

More ways to increase funding will have to be explored. Litigation alone is not likely to easily fund the committee, and it will be advantageous to put the least amount of burden on the membership even via voluntary donations.

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