



CONNECTICUT STATE POLICE UNION

Governor Dannel P. Malloy
Office of the Governor
State Capitol
210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

October 24, 2013

Dear Governor Malloy,

The Connecticut State Police Union leadership is compelled to write this letter because we have concerns regarding the credibility of the disciplinary process within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection. We also question the integrity of those whom you have entrusted to lead the State Police. Specifically, it is our concern that you have not been advised of an attempt by Commissioner Reuben Bradford and Colonel Danny Stebbins to allow a high ranking member of the State Police to avoid discipline for conduct that would likely result in the prompt termination of any of our members.

In June of 2012, this issue came to our attention when our members alerted us to a citizen complaint regarding a traffic stop conducted by Lt. Col. Robert Corona, the commanding officer of the State Police Office of Field Operations. When Lt. Col. Corona learned about the complaint, he allegedly ordered a civilian employee of the department to delete the video of the stop, which was documented by Lt. Col. Corona's dashboard camera. Destruction of a public record is a violation of department policy and tampering with evidence is a Class D felony.

It has now been more than sixteen months since this alleged illegal conduct occurred, and to our knowledge no discipline proceeding has been initiated. We have been advised that the agency referred this case to the Office of the Chief State's Attorney and that their investigation concluded that Lt. Col. Corona indeed violated agency rules. Notwithstanding, it appears that Lt. Col. Corona will be permitted to voluntarily retire effective December 1, 2013 without being disciplined. We have also been informed that Commissioner Bradford has made an exception for Lt. Col. Corona and he will be permitted to retain a retired State Police badge – an honor that is traditionally limited to Troopers who retire in good standing.

The Connecticut State Police Union's Board of Directors is troubled by the lack of integrity shown by Lt. Col. Corona, but is shocked by the blatant favoritism Commissioner Bradford and Colonel Stebbins have shown for Lt. Col. Corona by delaying the disciplinary process and allowing him to continue serving as the Commanding Officer of Field Operations. If these same allegations were made against our members, they would be immediately stripped of their duty weapon, badge, police powers, any supervisory authority, and a state wide message would be sent to all Troops revoking their authority to access criminal and motor vehicle computer records, and they would be transferred to an administrative assignment pending the outcome of any investigation. Refusing to treat all sworn Troopers consistently, regardless of rank, gives the appearance of favoritism, undermines the disciplinary process, weakens morale and erodes the credibility of the Commissioner, Colonel and Lt. Colonel.



Unfortunately, the double standard that is evident here is not isolated. As you are aware, in December 2006, the New York State Police and then Attorney General Richard Blumenthal issued a joint report about misconduct within the Connecticut State Police's internal affairs program. This 207-page report outlined systematic deficiencies within internal affairs and misguided leadership that discouraged "efforts to hold employees accountable for failure to comply with official policy and procedures, lack of integrity, acts of misconduct and even possibly criminal behavior." Nearly seven years after that report was issued, it is apparent that disparate treatment concerning discipline still exists.

It is clear from the handling of Lt. Col. Corona's misconduct that the culture of favoritism that once permeated the State Police's disciplinary process has returned to the agency with Commissioner Bradford and Colonel Stebbins, both of whom, prior to being appointed to their current positions, left the State Police before the New York report was issued.

The Commissioner's and Colonel's representatives have asked us to remain silent. They have asked that we not send you this letter. They have asked us to let a citizen complaint be ignored so that one of their own – a handpicked manager – can ride off into the sunset with his record unblemished and his pension increased. They would never permit the same outcome if one of our members stood in Lt. Col. Corona's place – and rightfully so. The discipline Troopers receive should be based on their conduct, not the rank insignia on their lapels or their loyalty to their commanders. That has not been the case under Commissioner Bradford or Colonel Stebbins.

We trust that you will help provide the leadership that the State Police has been lacking by taking immediate action and instituting meaningful reforms within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection to ensure that senior managers within the State Police do not receive preferential treatment and that the internal affairs process is fair for all.

The State Police deserves better. The citizens of Connecticut deserve better. You require better.

Sincerely,

The Connecticut State Police Union Executive Committee,


Andrew Matthews, President

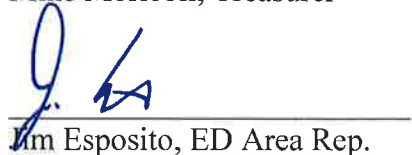

Marc Grandpre, VP West

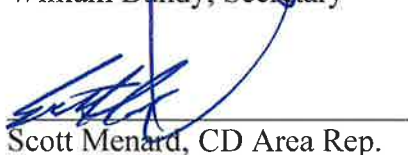

Jeff Meninno, VP East

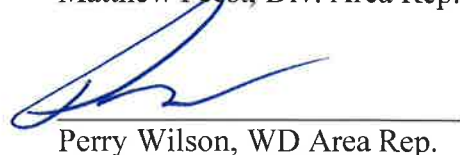

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cc: Attorney General George Jepsen
Commissioner Reuben Bradford
Col. Danny Stebbins