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V.2

BEFORE THE  
UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

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 In the Matter of: :  
 :  
 MEETING OF THE CONNECTICUT :  
 ADVISORY COMMISSION TO THE :  
 U.S. COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS : VOLUME 2  
 :  
 COMMUNITY FORUM ON POLICE- :  
 COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND MINORITY :  
 STUDENTS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN :  
 BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT :  
 :  
 ----- X

Bridgeport Holiday Inn  
Main Street  
Bridgeport, Connecticut

ORIGINAL

Thursday,  
May 25, 2000

The above-entitled matter came on for public hearing, pursuant to notice, before NEIL MACY, CHAIRMAN, CONNECTICUT ADVISORY BOARD, commencing at 9:20 a.m.

APPEARANCES:

On behalf of Connecticut Advisory Board:

NEIL MACY, CHAIRMAN  
LOU BERTHA McKenzie WHARTON, VICE CHAIRMAN  
ROSALIND BERMAN  
MARGERY GROSS  
PATRICK JOHNSON  
MARIESII THRU

I-TAKE CHUN,  
Director, Eastern Regional Office

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U.S. COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

I N D E X

PAGE

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EXECUTIVE COURT REPORTERS, INC.  
(301) 565-0064

## PANELISTS:

Panel: Police-Community Relations:  
The Past, Prologue to the  
Future?

Margery L. Gross, Moderator

Joe Grabbers 324  
Executive Director, Connecticut  
American Civil Liberties Union

Ted Meekins 331  
co-founder and former president  
Bridgeport Guardians

Vincent M. Musto, 341  
attorney for the Bridgeport  
Guardians

Nick Pastore, Director 353  
Criminal Justice Police Foundation

Panel 5: Police-Community Relations in 2000

Patrick J. Johnson, Jr., Moderator

Rev. Anthony Bennett, 421  
Interdenominational Alliance

Rev. James R. Cook, Jr., Facilitator, 423  
Black Coalition Against Police  
Brutality

Dave Daniels, President, 437  
Bridgeport Guardians and the  
Northeast Regional National Black  
Police Association

Lyle Hassan Jones, Facilitator 427  
Black Coalition Against Police  
Brutality

Carolyn B. Nah, President, 445  
Bridgeport NAACP

## I N D E X (contd.)

Burt Weinstein, attorney 458

Hector Torres, Acting Chief, 490  
Bridgeport Police Department

John Bailey, Chief State Attorney 477

Stephen C. Robinson, U. S. Attorney 469  
for the State of Connecticut

Martin Walsh, Director, U.S. Department 482  
of Justice, Community Relations  
Service

Open Session: Other Civil Rights Issues in 507  
Bridgeport

## P R O C E E D I N G S

9:20 a.m.

1  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN MACY: Good morning. Today we have  
4 three people in the audience. And for the record, let  
5 me say a couple of words and introduce the rest of our  
6 members of the Connecticut SAC, which is the Special  
7 Advisory Council that exist in every state in the  
8 United States and reports faithfully to the United  
9 States Commission on Civil Rights.

10 My name is Neil Macy and I am presently the  
11 Chair of the Committee. I'm going to start with Pat  
12 Johnson on the end, an active member of the Committee,  
13 to introduce himself.

14 BOARD MEMBER JOHNSON: I'm Patrick Johnson.  
15 I'm a member of the Advisory Committee to the U.S.  
16 Civil Rights Commission.

17 BOARD MEMBER TIRU: I'm Maritza from  
18 Waterbury.

19 BOARD MEMBER BERMAN: I'm Rosalind Berman on  
20 the Advisory Committee.

21 VICE CHAIRMAN WHARTON: Lou Bertha McKenzie  
22 Wharton.

23 MR. CHUN: I'm Ki-Taek Chun from the  
24 Washington Office of the Civil Rights Commission.

25 BOARD MEMBER GROSS: I'm Marg Gross from the

1 Advisory Committee.

2 CHAIRMAN MACY: Thank you.

3 Let me just go over a couple of ground rules  
4 and then let Marg Gross, who's our moderator for this  
5 panel, take it over.

6 Sitting next to me, as you heard, on the  
7 right, is Dr. Ki-Taek Chun, and he has the beeper on  
8 which he'll count for the knockdowns. Each person will  
9 be allowed approximately 11 minutes to make a  
10 presentation and when it gets to the 11 minute period  
11 you'll hear a buzzer go off. And what we'll do is  
12 allow about another minute or two to summarize without  
13 interrupting.

14 What we would especially like, even though  
15 the Court Stenographer is taking minutes, many times  
16 people revise their minutes before they finish the or  
17 want to add things. It's the old theory of Congress.  
18 They want to speak for two minutes and give you 30  
19 pages of speech.

20 So after we finish, what we would do, request  
21 of the speakers sometime between now and June 23<sup>rd</sup>, by  
22 the time we will have the stenographic report, to ask  
23 you to revise and amend or add to whatever it is you  
24 plan to say because we will use that for the official  
25 record rather than what is put on the tape. So if you

1 want to revise something, your comments will be  
2 included as part of your presentation.

3           For those people who are in the audience,  
4 everyone will be given an opportunity to ask questions  
5 or make statements at the conclusion of the  
6 presentation. We won't have any of these things during  
7 the presentation. And all we request you to do is come  
8 up to the podium and give your name clearly and then  
9 make whatever statement or question you wish to ask of  
10 any or all of the members of the panel.

11           Let me just see if I've skipped anything  
12 else.

13           (Pause.)

14           Okay. I think we've read about everything  
15 here. So without taking any more of your time, Marg,  
16 why don't you take over.

17           BOARD MEMBER GROSS: All right.

18           I welcome you all here, too. Unfortunately,  
19 I have one -- one of the members of our panel called  
20 early this morning to say he couldn't be here. That's  
21 Thomas Bucci, who is apparently in court, so he  
22 couldn't make it. And Ted Meekins we expect will be  
23 here momentarily, so we won't wait for him. We'll go  
24 ahead.

25           Joe, would you care to be our first speaker,

1 Joe Grabarz, who is the Executive Director of the  
2 Connecticut Civil Liberties Union and has had numerous  
3 cases, I'm sure, dealing with police matters.

4 You can either speak from there or you can go  
5 to the podium. Whatever you prefer.

6 MR. GRABARZ: Actually, right here is fine if  
7 everybody can hear.

8 BOARD MEMBER GROSS: The microphone is not  
9 really a microphone. It's for the Court Stenographer.  
10 So, just speak up whenever -- whatever you have to say.

11 MR. GRABARZ: Good. I actually have a good  
12 enough voice so I should be able to manage that.

13 Thank you for the invitation, again. It's  
14 always nice to have this opportunity to talk about our  
15 work that we at the Connecticut Civil Liberties Union  
16 consider very important and that we do quite a bit of,  
17 and that is working on the restraint and lawful use of  
18 police powers.

19 It is a problem that five years ago when I  
20 came to the Connecticut Civil Liberties Union was, in  
21 certain geographic areas of the state, I could only  
22 classify as fairly out of control. Officers in certain  
23 jurisdictions essentially acted as hired guns to do as  
24 they pleased.

25 We litigated several of those cases and were

1 successful. Interestingly enough, those instances  
2 really didn't fit a particular profile. You couldn't  
3 say that departments or the abuse of police authority  
4 were occurring primarily in urban areas or in rural  
5 areas or suburban areas. It happened in certain parts  
6 of the state without regard to those specific  
7 classifications.

8           There have been several most recent attempts  
9 by the Connecticut legislature at our urging and the  
10 urging of other groups like the NAACP and the Puerto  
11 Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund to address some  
12 circumstances of police authority and the abuse of  
13 that.

14           Last year the Connecticut General Assembly  
15 passed an act designed to combat what nationally the  
16 ACLU has referred to as D.B., or driving while black, a  
17 situation that, based on statistics in New Jersey just  
18 measuring cars going down I-95, which of course runs  
19 through Connecticut as well, was considered a very  
20 serious problem in which black or African-American  
21 motorists in particular, but certainly other racial and  
22 ethnic groups, were pulled over on a more frequent  
23 basis, were searched on a more frequent basis and were  
24 found to -- at least were cited for traffic violations  
25 or searched on a more frequent basis or a higher



1 percentage, as well.

2           Since I-95 runs through Connecticut and since  
3 we have at least anecdotally dealt with a lot of that  
4 through our office, the Connecticut Civil Liberties  
5 Union, including three years ago in which Wilson Goode,  
6 Jr., the son of the mayor of a city in Pennsylvania was  
7 pulled over while traveling through the state as well.

8           The Racial Profiling Act requires the state  
9 of Connecticut to maintain statistics on traffic stops,  
10 racial statistics and ethnic and gender statistics on  
11 traffic stops and requires the state to ensure that  
12 each municipality does the same as well. It has been  
13 very difficult to get local police departments in  
14 particular to conform to both the letter and the spirit  
15 of this law. Most departments, with a few exceptions,  
16 despite the fact that they're breaking the law, have  
17 already conformed to the letter of the law. But  
18 numerous departments are still lagging in their  
19 performance as it regards to complying with the spirit  
20 of the law.

21           And as some of you may know, the town of West  
22 Hartford actually created a special kind of traffic  
23 stop outside of the parameters defined in the law,  
24 clearly as an attempt to bypass the intent of the  
25 Racial Profiling law.

1           Statistics are just starting to come in. The  
2 law went into effect, effectively became operable,  
3 January 1<sup>st</sup>. And so we're just starting to see first  
4 quarter statistics. And without a complete analysis of  
5 it, I can tell you that you are at a significantly  
6 higher risk of being searched in a traffic stop if you  
7 are African-American or Asian in the state of  
8 Connecticut.

9           As a matter of fact, it looks like between 10  
10 and 30 times more probable that you're going to be  
11 searched. An overwhelming percentage of African-  
12 Americans who were stopped at least by the state police  
13 over the past quarter were searched in comparison to  
14 the number of white drivers who were pulled over for a  
15 motor vehicle violation or a suspected motor vehicle  
16 violation.

17           That is just the tip of the iceberg in  
18 police-community relations. And one of the reasons why  
19 the national ACLU chose driving while black as an area  
20 to focus on is because -- and why they chose racial  
21 profiling as an area to work legislatively is because  
22 it's just one corner of the criminal justice system in  
23 which you can get a picture of how we believe or at  
24 least suspect racial minorities in particular are  
25 treated throughout the criminal justice system. It is

1 an area that is measurable.

2           And certainly the statistics that are coming  
3 in are showing measurable differences between how  
4 racial minorities are treated by police authorities in  
5 the state of Connecticut in comparison to other groups.

6           That led us this year to request the state  
7 legislature to review the entire criminal justice  
8 system for racial disparity. Some of you may know that  
9 the Connecticut Civil Liberties Union settled a long-  
10 time suit that we've had against Commissioner Lee and  
11 the -- excuse me. That suit is not settled. But a  
12 suit that we've had against the state of Connecticut  
13 regarding the condition of the public defender system.

14           In the state of Connecticut, unless you can  
15 essentially afford your own attorney, you are at a  
16 significant disadvantage before the justice -- what's  
17 supposed to be the justice section of our criminal  
18 justice system.

19           The ability to maneuver that system with  
20 adequate legal counsel and counsel that has the tools  
21 that they need to adequately represent you were  
22 significantly handicapped in the state of Connecticut.

23           The state settled that suit. The Department  
24 of Public Defenders and the state of Connecticut is now  
25 on its way towards a significant improvement. And I

1 might add that the Department is working very hard to  
2 try and do that.

3           But those two areas represent just only two  
4 small areas within the entire criminal justice system.  
5 So the state of Connecticut this year passed a bill  
6 requiring a blue ribbon commission to study racial  
7 disparity within the criminal justice system, including  
8 the impact of the death penalty on any racial or ethnic  
9 disparity, as well.

10           We think that this commission, if it takes  
11 its job seriously, will find areas that the state of  
12 Connecticut needs very seriously to improve. And a  
13 number of those are things that local departments need  
14 to be encouraged or required by the state of  
15 Connecticut to comply with.

16           Local police departments have very few  
17 mandated minimum performance levels, training levels.  
18 Local police departments in the state of Connecticut by  
19 and large do not have any kind of civilian review.  
20 There are a great disparity between the best  
21 departments in the state and how they treat diversity  
22 in hiring, promoting and training and what the worst  
23 departments in the state do.

24           One of the major cities in Connecticut was  
25 before the court on a racial discrimination aspect of a

1 police brutality case. And when the white officer on  
2 the stand was asked under oath before a judge what kind  
3 of diversity training was comprised of in the police  
4 department of this city, he said, well, we had a half  
5 an hour. He was then asked what the half an hour  
6 consisted of. And he said, well, they told us things  
7 like, you know, Puerto Ricans have lots of children and  
8 hang on street corners. That's their nature.

9           That is not diversity but yet that is what  
10 stands in the place of adequate training in some cities  
11 and towns in Connecticut. We need to require that.

12           There are a number of other standards that  
13 need to be adopted. There's a bill before the United  
14 States Congress which would require police departments  
15 to adopt minimum standards, which is stalled within the  
16 process and probably will not advance this year, but  
17 which is certainly needed on at least some level to  
18 bring the level of trust within communities across the  
19 state up to a level where people of all kinds of  
20 colors, religions, races and genders feel that they  
21 have a fair shot between the entire criminal justice  
22 system.

23           Part of the reason why communities end in  
24 conflict with law enforcement officials, with the  
25 judicial system, with those in charge of order in our

1 society, is because they don't feel they're getting a  
2 fair shot. And we in Connecticut in particular have  
3 made some significant steps but have a long way to go  
4 before most folks in the state feel like they have a  
5 fair shot before the system.

6 BOARD MEMBER GROSS: Thank you very much.

7 We'd like now to hear from -- I'm sure others  
8 will want to question you afterwards on some statements  
9 you made -- Ted Meekins, who is co-founder and former  
10 president of the Bridgeport Guardians and who also was  
11 in the police department for many years. He just  
12 handed me some material. A 29-year veteran of the  
13 police department.

14 I think rather than my going into this, I'll  
15 let you discuss what you wish to about your background  
16 and other work but we all look forward to hearing from  
17 you now.

18 MR. MEEKINS: Thank you.

19 Good morning. My name is Ted Meekins. As  
20 has been already stated, I'm a past veteran, 29-year  
21 veteran of the Bridgeport Police Department, co-founder  
22 of the Bridgeport Guardians and past president of that  
23 organization. It's an organization of black and  
24 Hispanic police officers.

25 When we initially started the organization it

1 was just a coming together. There were only 10 black  
2 police officers out of over close to 500 officers. And  
3 we seldom worked together, seldom saw each other, other  
4 than in passing. We were not assigned on the same  
5 shifts. We did not work in the same units. So we were  
6 really sort of isolated.

7           And I said -- it wasn't a novel ideal but  
8 what if the 10 of us got together and talked about  
9 issues that we were facing in a hostile environment  
10 within an organization which is supposed to serve the  
11 public and be servants to the public, and yet we were  
12 invisible entities. When I say we, black police  
13 officers.

14           When the President said I do not see color,  
15 then they do not see me. If I am not seen, I am not  
16 recognized. If I am not recognized, I am not heard.  
17 Therefore, I do not exist. And that, ladies and  
18 gentlemen, is the premise of why the Guardians were  
19 formed. It's also the premise of why we're here today.

20           Over the years the battle has not been easy.  
21 I started off with a novel idea that I just wanted to  
22 be a police officer. I never grew up with that idea.  
23 I never ever thought about being a police officer. It  
24 only occurred to me that I should become a police  
25 officer after I saw a movie. And after seeing the

1 movie, I then said maybe I should play a more active  
2 role in my community to help bring about change.

3 I would just like to ask a question. Is  
4 anyone Irish here today? Irish descent? Anyone Jewish  
5 descent? Anybody Jewish? Anybody Italian? Anybody  
6 Puerto Rican? Cuban? Did I miss anybody?

7 VOICE: Costa Rican.

8 MR. MEEKINS: Costa Rican.

9 VOICE: German.

10 MR. MEEKINS: German.

11 Okay. I ask that because I am Afro-American.  
12 I do not have to wear a sign for you to know and  
13 identify me from across the street, down the street, as  
14 I drive by in a car, as I'm walking along with my  
15 family shopping. You see me. You recognize me. So  
16 therefore, you see color.

17 If you're talking about nationalities, then  
18 that's a whole 'other entity. And I don't see  
19 nationalities. I see people.

20 You see me as both a person and a  
21 nationality, Afro-American. But color. And some  
22 people, when I was first coming up, they thought it was  
23 offensive to call me black. They weren't comfortable.  
24 Negro or colored was a more generic term. But things  
25 change.



1           And in the police department it was very  
2 difficult to assimilate people. Assimilation in the  
3 police department is a culture. The good old boy  
4 network, the good old boy system is what we have to  
5 fight through. You're getting into territory where no  
6 one else understands what we have to go through, so  
7 therefore, we have to teach our own. No one else is  
8 going to do it. We have to treat each other with  
9 respect. We have to cover each other's back.

10           We're in life and death situations and who do  
11 you call? The preacher? Your neighbor down the  
12 street? No. You're going to call another police  
13 officer because he's the one who's going to be there to  
14 cover you. Not your mother and father, not your sister  
15 and brother, but another police officer.

16           We're talking about people, ladies and  
17 gentlemen, who carry guns and are trained to use guns,  
18 deadly force, taking away a person's freedom. Not only  
19 taking away a person's life but taking away a person's  
20 freedom. These are heavy, heavy decisions that  
21 officers have to make and not make lightly. This is  
22 awesome power to be carried.

23           And yet we have police officers who feel  
24 they're totally powerless. We have police officers who  
25 feel that I can't do it. I go into a situation, I am

1 fearful, fearful. So therefore, I have to react on my  
2 own premonition. I have to react on my own fears of  
3 people with different nationalities or people with  
4 different races. Nothing to do with what you're  
5 trained but your own fears.

6 And I just raise those as a backdrop to see  
7 what we as black police officers had to work through in  
8 the early years, the early years. And I'm going only  
9 back 30 years. Most of us in this room were born.

10 I'm a school teacher also. And when I say 30  
11 years, they look at me like I'm ancient. Most of them  
12 had not even been born. And sometimes I forget. I  
13 have to explain what I'm talking about.

14 But 30 years, just give a little backdrop.

15 This is a picture -- can you see it from  
16 here? The Ku Klux Klan. Most of us recognize the Ku  
17 Klux Klan. They wear hoods. They wear white robes.  
18 Most of them are white. They carry a cross. They  
19 usually burn it. It's a group that advocates killing  
20 of people. They were responsible for lynching many  
21 blacks and some whites in the South and no so far  
22 south. But this picture happened to be taken here in  
23 Connecticut in a community called Wallingford.

24 The other person in the picture is Reverend  
25 Jesse Jackson. This is not 30 years ago. This was

1 less than four weeks ago. The Ku Klux Klan.

2 Why they're wearing hoods when we have state  
3 statutes requiring under the Hate Crime that you cannot  
4 wear facial coverings. No one was arrested.  
5 Apparently the norms in that community are not the same  
6 as in other communities, even though there's a law.

7 Racial slurs by a police chief. A police  
8 chief, making ethnic, racial slurs about a minority  
9 group, blacks. And there's no blacks on his police  
10 department so he felt free to talk about it.

11 BOARD MEMBER BERMAN: Which community? Is  
12 that in Connecticut, sir?

13 MR. MEEKINS: Shelton. I'm sorry. Shelton,  
14 Connecticut, a close community to Bridgeport. We get a  
15 lot of people from Shelton in Bridgeport. Matter of  
16 fact, a lot of them work here.

17 But the Shelton Police Department, no blacks.  
18 So therefore, the chief felt very comfortable in his  
19 conversations. He was given a written reprimand or  
20 something like that. A taped conversation.

21 Trumbull Police Department. No blacks. They  
22 worked out an agreement with the U.S. Justice  
23 Department and our own Senator Alvin Finn who's been  
24 raising an issue about profiling. Now there's a state  
25 statute on racial profiling and regulations for police

1 officers all begun by concerned citizens and championed  
2 by Senator Alvin Finn and finally adopted. We went up  
3 and testified on behalf of that bill.

4 But Trumbull has no black police officers.  
5 Worked out an agreement with the U.S. Justice  
6 Department, then had minorities on a hiring list. Some  
7 were called, all set to go into the class, which you  
8 have to get seats at the State Police Academy, which is  
9 very hard. You just don't get seats like that.

10 They were all set. They were ready to go.  
11 And lo and behold a newly appointed Board member  
12 stopped the whole process. Said they wanted a new  
13 list. And the whole new list would require new  
14 testing. And the new list would be created. The old  
15 list that had minorities ready to go on an all white  
16 police department was scrapped for no apparent reason  
17 after an agreement was made not only with the police  
18 department, no only with civil rights groups but with  
19 the U.S. Justice Department, the civil rights  
20 component.

21 BOARD MEMBER GROSS: I'm sorry, sir, but  
22 you're going to be cut off soon, so that's why I'm  
23 warning you.

24 MR. MEEKINS: Now a firm is hired and they  
25 want to charge \$400 per applicant. They're seeking

1 minorities, you understand. The prior white officers  
2 on this all white police department did not have to pay  
3 anything. The group that was all ready to go, they  
4 were all set. Now suddenly they want to hire a firm  
5 from Connecticut that says, look, I'll charge each  
6 person \$400 to take their test to become a Trumbull  
7 police officer.

8           If they pass and go on the job, they don't  
9 have to pay. If they fail, we keep their \$400.  
10 There's something wrong with that picture.

11           Hate crime bills. I'm being cut off but I  
12 would just like to say we started the Bridgeport  
13 Guardian many years ago. There were only 10 black  
14 officers, 440 white officers, no females, no Hispanics.  
15 We went through administratively and asked for changes.  
16 None came about.

17           We then had to implement litigation, lawsuits  
18 after lawsuit after lawsuit after about 14 lawsuits or  
19 more, plus administrative complaints filed with the  
20 U.S. Justice Department. Had investigators come, do  
21 on-site investigations and upheld -- federal monies was  
22 withheld.

23           Today, February 2000 -- this is May -- a  
24 little over 247 white police officers on the Bridgeport  
25 Police Department. We have over 179 minority officers.

1 We're close to now 43 percent of the Bridgeport Police  
2 Department due to litigation which we filed.

3           We did not have any supervisors, black  
4 supervisors or Hispanic supervisors or female  
5 supervisors until 1986. Ladies and gentlemen, that was  
6 only 14 years ago. So we're babies in the law  
7 enforcement field. When you see a police officer, you  
8 don't look at them as being me. You just look at the  
9 blue or at the badge. But we've only been around in  
10 the supervisory field for 14 years here in Bridgeport.

11           In 1970 there were 94 supervisors, all white.  
12 1986, there were 93 supervisors, all white, one black.  
13 The year 2000, we now have 66 white police officers and  
14 28 minority supervisors. We have a Hispanic police  
15 chief. He's acting, Hector Torres. We have a black  
16 Deputy Chief, Art Crowder. We have a white female  
17 captain and we have some lieutenants, we have  
18 sergeants, we have detectives.

19           Major strides have been made, not without a  
20 struggle, but because of our attorney, Vince Musto, and  
21 the firm of Coscoff and Coscoff and the federal courts  
22 that made the decisions. Then we had to go back and  
23 get a special master appointed to oversee the police  
24 department because they would not do what they said  
25 they would do.

1 I just gave you an example. Trumbull agreed  
2 and they reneged. So in Bridgeport, there was no  
3 difference back in those days. A federal master was  
4 appointed to oversee the operations and that's why we  
5 have these results.

6 And today, we just received another decision  
7 which now takes the discipline -- it's on appeal, but  
8 it takes the discipline out of the hands of the  
9 Bridgeport Police Commissions, puts it in the hands of  
10 a special disciplinary -- I've forgotten the name we  
11 call it. What's the name?

12 VOICE: Hearing Officer.

13 MR. MEEKINS: Hearing officer. We're going to  
14 call him a hearing officer. And the hearing officer's  
15 responsibility will be to hear discipline cases against  
16 police officers, issue written decisions so there's a  
17 record. But this process is being appealed by the  
18 union and the Hispanic Society, so it's on hold. But  
19 we're still in the struggle.

20 Thank you.

21 BOARD MEMBER GROSS: I'm sorry to cut you off  
22 but we'll give you an opportunity to speak some more  
23 later when the panel questions one another.

24 CHAIRMAN MACY: Might I just ask him one  
25 question which is not clear from what he said. He

1 talks about -- Ted, you talked about 179 minority  
2 officers. Are you including women in minority or  
3 should they be a separate category or do you have any  
4 women?

5 MR. MEEKINS: Yes. Women, black and Hispanic  
6 women are minorities. White women are a protected  
7 class. They're not minorities. So when I said  
8 minority, I'm speaking primarily of black and Hispanic.  
9 We do have and I identified some women  
10 supervisors, female, black and white.

11 CHAIRMAN MACY: Thank you.

12 BOARD MEMBER GROSS: Okay. Next we'll hear  
13 from Vince Musto who Mr. Meekins already referred to as  
14 an attorney for the Guardians. And he also is a member  
15 of a prominent law firm in Bridgeport and a resident of  
16 Bridgeport. I hope that the question of a special  
17 master will come up in your remarks, too, as to how  
18 well that's going. He sent members of the committee a  
19 great deal of material regarding court cases that were  
20 on or settled.

21 Thank you.

22 MR. MUSTO: Well, this is a first for me. I  
23 have never figured out a way to shut up Ted Meekins.  
24 And I've got to remind Ted that it is Coscoff and  
25 Beeder. And the reason I say that is some of you may



1 know Richard Beeder also as a partner in our firm and  
2 is recently appointed as a special master in Hartford  
3 to look into, oversee, whatever words you want to use,  
4 claims of problems in the Hartford Police Department  
5 involving race.

6           When I was asked to speak, and if you look at  
7 the description of the panel today, it says the past is  
8 prologue to the future. And as the attorney for the  
9 Bridgeport Guardians for almost the last 15 years, I  
10 would rather change that title, at least as to what I'm  
11 going to talk about, as the past is not yet past.

12           What I want to talk about is discrimination  
13 within the Bridgeport Police Department. And by that I  
14 mean discrimination against minority officers, blacks  
15 and Hispanics in the department, in terms of how they  
16 are treated internally. And the reason that I think  
17 that's an important issue for you to understand is that  
18 to the extent that that racism still exists in the  
19 police department internally, it gets translated into  
20 the neighborhoods. It gets translated into the  
21 communities of Bridgeport.

22           One of the reasons for doing this panel, I  
23 was told, is because we want to set a baseline so  
24 people understand where things are in the year 2000 in  
25 the Bridgeport Police Department. Not to burst

1 people's bubble, but that baseline has been set for a  
2 long time. And you can read about it. And I will  
3 submit to the Commission a list of some of the cases  
4 that Ted referred to. But dating back to 1973 the  
5 baseline for racial discrimination in this department  
6 has been set and very well documented, very well  
7 established.

8 I can't recount that whole history of  
9 litigation in 10 minutes. I'd probably need about 10  
10 hours. But I'll try to give you some highlights.

11 The first major lawsuit was in 1973. It was  
12 a case called Guardians versus Civil Service  
13 Commission. And what it involved was hiring. And  
14 Judge John Newman, who is now on the Second Circuit  
15 Court of Appeals, the only judge in the appellate court  
16 that ever asked me a question to which my response got  
17 laughter because I had no idea what he was talking  
18 about. He's a brilliant judge.

19 But Judge Newman, in the Guardians versus  
20 Civil Service Commission case, imposed hiring quotas.  
21 And the reason he did, and that's a pretty dramatic  
22 remedy, is he found that the tests used in Bridgeport,  
23 he described the as archaic. He said that they were  
24 completely not job related in any way. That the  
25 department did not recruitment of minority candidates.

1 And at the time, out of 469 officers, there were 17  
2 minority officers in the department from 1973. There  
3 were 117 officers who were in a supervisory position.  
4 There was one minority officer at that rank. So Judge  
5 Newman imposed quotas. He said that for the  
6 foreseeable future until we get 50 minority officers in  
7 the department, we're going to hire on a one-to-one  
8 basis; one minority, qualified minority, for one white.

9           That was really the beginning of litigation  
10 that made a difference in this department. During the  
11 next eight to 10 years there were a number of cases  
12 involving things like the Housing Authority police,  
13 detectives' examinations, things of that nature. And  
14 interestingly there was also a companion case going on,  
15 partly brought by my firm and also brought by a firm in  
16 New Haven involving the Bridgeport Fire Department, a  
17 group called the Bridgeport Fire Birds, who were doing  
18 the same thing the Bridgeport Guardians were doing in  
19 the police department, they were doing in the fire  
20 department with similar results.

21           In the last '70s and early '80s there are two  
22 cases that are probably the most significant cases  
23 other than Judge Newman's decision that have come down.  
24 The first is a case, no shock, involving Ted Meekins, a  
25 case called Meekins and Losalada versus the Bridgeport

1 Police Department and it's a case in which, as I think  
2 happened every three years, Ted got suspended. And in  
3 this instance, the police commission held secret  
4 hearings. And that's not such a terrible thing  
5 sometimes for employment purposes. That's required.  
6 But they held secret hearings. And at the end of the  
7 hearings, they invited in those two guardians of civil  
8 rights, Police Commissioner Joe Walsh and John  
9 Mandonici, the mayor at the time.

10 Talk about putting the fox in the chicken  
11 coop. And lo and behold, at the end of that meeting,  
12 decided to suspend Ted. So another case was brought  
13 before Judge Dailey in the federal district court. And  
14 Judge Daily said that -- and this is a quote, local  
15 realities lead to the prediction that bias and  
16 prejudgment are likely to fatally infect the fact  
17 finding and disciplinary process. That therefore, he  
18 disqualified the Police Commissioner from hearing Ted's  
19 case. Which was, again, a pretty drastic remedy. But  
20 it gives you an idea of the level at which things  
21 operated around here and sometimes still do.

22 The case Ted talked about in terms of a  
23 special master being in place in Bridgeport is a case  
24 call Guardians versus Del Monte. And it's really the  
25 watershed case for the Bridgeport Police Department in

1 terms of its internal issues of racial discrimination.

2           And after many years of trying to deal with  
3 things internally, bring lawsuits, the Guardians,  
4 through our office, and this was before I was involved  
5 in the case, brought a case saying that racial  
6 discrimination is just so pervasive in this department  
7 that something drastic has to be done .

8           And as an example of what happened, I'll tell  
9 you what was on the record and found as evidence in  
10 this case. And it sounds archaic but actually it's not  
11 so different from some of the things that still happen.

12           As an example of the discrimination, there  
13 was testimony that on the departmental bulletin boards,  
14 where things can only be posted with official  
15 permission, there was posted a target which was  
16 superimposed over the silhouette of an African-American  
17 person. And the title of it -- and remember, this only  
18 gets there with official permission -- was run a nigger  
19 target.

20           There was also something called a minority  
21 sergeant's exam and that minority sergeant's exam was,  
22 by Chief Walsh's admission, distributed by Chief Walsh  
23 to, among other people, the fire chief. And it had  
24 questions that were so degradingly stupid, as Judge  
25 Daily found, that the implication was that only a

1 minority would have to have a test so simple in order  
2 to become a sergeant.

3           These were two of the most gross and  
4 outrageous examples of racial discrimination and the  
5 kind of climate that existed in the department at the  
6 time, so Judge Dailey, federal district court Judge  
7 Dailey said enough of this. We're going to put a  
8 special master in place who will, instead of you guys  
9 having to come to court all the time, will be able to  
10 hear on a much more expedited basis, claims of racial  
11 discrimination.

12           That special master, Bill Clendenon, who is  
13 an attorney from New Haven, is still in place today, 18  
14 years later. And he's still hearing cases.

15           Judge Dailey also issued a remedy order. I  
16 will include that with our materials. But his remedy  
17 order covered more than just the appointment of a  
18 special master. It covered things like no longer are  
19 we going to have minority cops always getting the bad  
20 assignments. We're going to have a rotation of  
21 officers so that everybody gets an opportunity to have  
22 all the assignments that are available in the  
23 department, and various other issues that were covered  
24 in that remedy order which you'll be able to take a  
25 look at.

1           Since Bill Clendenon was appointed special  
2 master 18 years ago, he's heard over 50 cases. He has  
3 threatened to suspend the Police Commission. He's  
4 threatened to fine the police department \$1,000 a day.  
5 These are all as a result of racial discrimination in  
6 the department. He did recommend the suspension of the  
7 police chief.

8           When I say he recommends, he has no power to  
9 actually formally order anything because that has to be  
10 done by the federal court. But Clendenon issues a  
11 ruling as a special master and in 99 cases out of 100  
12 the court adopts the ruling.

13           So he recommended the suspension of Police  
14 Chief Sweeney, who's now up in Glastonbury counting  
15 cows and getting sued by Johnny Cochran. He has also  
16 conducted his own investigations for issues that he has  
17 come upon and has decided were issues that needed to be  
18 related or -- I'm sorry -- dealt with. And as I said,  
19 he's still very much active and we're still  
20 unfortunately bringing cases before him.

21           Now, that case was not the end of the line in  
22 litigation. In addition to the cases going before  
23 Special Master Clendenon, there have been other matters  
24 that have been litigated involving hiring and  
25 promotion. I'm not going to get into those in great

1 detail because I do want to bring you up to date a  
2 little bit on where we are today. And that is that  
3 through the intervention of the federal court, the  
4 third judge now on this case, Judge Janet Bond  
5 Arditton, who is a former employment lawyer in New  
6 Haven and now the federal court judge assigned to this  
7 case, we have begun with the city to start to negotiate  
8 changes in the police department. And I have to tell  
9 you that it's been a hard road to hoe.

10           There's at least one very good assistant city  
11 attorney who's been very active and very aggressive in  
12 understanding that the city just can't continue to go  
13 on this way. They've got to make changes and they've  
14 got to negotiate those changes.

15           But Judge Arditton made it clear to us about  
16 six months or a year ago in court. She basically said  
17 either you guys fix this or I'm going to. I am tired  
18 of this. I'm tired of 50 cases in front of the special  
19 master. I'm tired of seeing -- we have something like  
20 1100 docket entries in the court file for Guardians  
21 versus Del Monte. And it was clear to us what she was  
22 saying was either you guys fix it or I'm going to do  
23 something at least like suspend the Police Commission  
24 or perhaps put this department in receivership to get  
25 this thing straightened out.



1           So the city, I think, has seen some of the  
2 light here and they have started negotiations. And as  
3 Ted mentioned, with the first major issue that's been  
4 negotiated is removing the Police Commission from the  
5 disciplinary process. They will no longer have a role  
6 in discipline, aside from one area which is the thing  
7 called the Barrows Decree that I know Burt Weinstein  
8 will talk about later, that has to do with citizen  
9 complaints. But in most disciplinary matters, the  
10 Police Commission will now be out and will be replaced  
11 by impartial court approved hearing officers.

12           The first one is going to be a retired  
13 federal judge, certainly somebody beyond reproach. And  
14 beyond that, we're going to probably appoint three  
15 people who will be serving as hearing officers and  
16 who will have credentials and use folks that both the  
17 Guardians, the city and most importantly the court find  
18 to be acceptable people to hear discipline.

19           The union has appealed, as Ted said. And the  
20 reason the union has appealed, they claim the Police  
21 Commission is quote/unquote -- they actually said this.  
22 Cop friendly. I.e., the Police Commission doesn't  
23 discipline people.

24           We would respectfully disagree and say that  
25 the Police Commission is white cop friendly and has

1 demonstrated that over the years. And I think the  
2 judge knows that's the case.

3 So, however, the settlement is on appeal but  
4 I believe that the Second Circuit Court of Appeals will  
5 uphold that settlement.

6 We have made progress. Ted mentioned the  
7 number of black and Hispanic cops in the department has  
8 dramatically increased over the last 25 years.  
9 Minorities have risen to supervisory positions. Hector  
10 Torres, the Deputy Chief right now is a former  
11 Guardians member, an Hispanic member of the department.  
12 Art Crowder, a black member of the department, is the  
13 first black Deputy Chief. But we have a long way to  
14 go.

15 And the last thing that Mr. Cherney asked me  
16 to talk about is what do we need to do to make things  
17 better. And I thought about that. And I've been  
18 thinking about that for 15 years now. And there's  
19 really only one thing and I'll tell you what it is.

20 Quite frankly, what you need is a commitment  
21 at the top level of this city and the top level of the  
22 police department to get rid of racism in this  
23 department. Basically, what we've had for years is  
24 politics as usual in Bridgeport. And what happens with  
25 that is that the bad guys get protected. And for the

1 vast majority of good cops, white, black and Hispanic,  
2 that's got to be demoralizing. But politics as usual  
3 protects the bad guys and doesn't do much for the good  
4 guys. And what it does is it sends a message that it's  
5 okay to do the following things that have happened in  
6 the last couple of years: Place a hangman's noose in  
7 the President of the Guardians' car; write KKK on a  
8 police blotter; write KKK, try it, you'll like it, in  
9 the police locker room.

10 So when I talk about things like the run a  
11 nigger target, the minority sergeant's exam, people say  
12 oh, that's years ago. It's not yet years ago. The  
13 past is not yet past and we need committed courageous  
14 political leadership to make a change.

15 BOARD MEMBER GROSS: Thank you very much.

16 I think we're now, after all those previous,  
17 ready to hear from the head of the Police Foundation  
18 and former Police Chief of New Haven at the Police  
19 Foundation, as it is the --

20 MR. PASTORE: That's close enough.

21 BOARD MEMBER GROSS: Nick Pastore.

22 MR. PASTORE: Thank you so much.

23 BOARD MEMBER GROSS: Someone who lives in the  
24 suburbs of New Haven, so to speak. I'm familiar with  
25 some of his work before.

1 MR. PASTORE: Thank you so much. And I thank  
2 the Advisory Committee for giving me the opportunity to  
3 be with you on this important issue.

4 I think we've heard so much of the crux of  
5 the issue; and that is, leadership and the absence of,  
6 providing the direction. We should have all been on  
7 that road many years ago.

8 And a good example of that is what Mr.  
9 Grabarz early indicated that even after a law has been  
10 passed by the state regarding racial profiling, there's  
11 not willing compliance from the leaders that were  
12 supposed to implement and evaluate those type of laws.  
13 And that's a law just compelling and mandating  
14 gathering evidence for analysis and what have you.  
15 That you have police chiefs resisting that law and  
16 shaping it to their own thinking.

17 Understand what that means in this resistance  
18 to the situation. That's why you have federal decrees,  
19 as indicated by Mr. Musto. If you don't do it, I'm  
20 getting tired of it, and what have you.

21 Which takes me to the point as I travel  
22 across this country, just recently coming back from  
23 Louisville, Kentucky, where I heard the same horror  
24 stories as here -- it's not unique to Bridgeport -- is  
25 the issue of police credibility.

1 I've been in this business since '62 and  
2 there's at an all time low in this nation. And I'll  
3 try to fill in some of the reasons why.

4 We watch the goings on and the unfolding of  
5 things that have happened in New York City in recent  
6 years, despite statistics. There's a message there.  
7 In spite of reducing crime, we still believe in human  
8 dignity and respect for one another, but that seems to  
9 be cast aside in that type of policing.

10 And then as we cross the country, a lot in  
11 between. And let's go to L.A. As we speak, what's  
12 happening in L.A. When it's bold faced rogue criminal  
13 activity with people with badges and authority, this  
14 power.

15 And what comes to mind for me as I've been a  
16 part of the system all these years is what happened to  
17 the checks and balances? Were they ever there?

18 We watched and analyzed studies. I go back  
19 to the Kerner Commission Report, clearly about race.  
20 Clearly about race. And subsequent studies of the  
21 Kerner Commission Report. Clearly about race. And  
22 forecasting what should be done.

23 Fast forward to the Warren Christopher report  
24 of 1993. Clearly forecasting, and what was done.  
25 Matter of fact, I think Mr. Christopher took some pages

1 out of the Kerner Commission Report. We just took the  
2 dust off it. You'll find the same verbiage in there.  
3 Nothing was done.

4           And even the recent Leadership Conference on  
5 Civil Rights, which I'm sure you must have read about.  
6 The disparity in, quote, the color of a person's skin  
7 is a better indicator of how long a person's sentence  
8 will be, whether or not a person will be pulled over by  
9 police, whether or not a person is given the death  
10 penalty, what kind of a plea bargain a person is  
11 offered or whether or not a juvenile is tried as an  
12 adult.

13           We're still dealing with the same issues  
14 because we haven't dealt with them.

15           Our response to much of this is to  
16 marginalize groups of people. And I don't blame the  
17 cop on the street, as clearly indicated by previous  
18 presenters here. I blame the leadership. It's really  
19 their lack. The cops are doing what they think is  
20 expected of them. And keep in mind there's a pecking  
21 order in the business of policing. Most cops want to  
22 be detectives. They want to be sergeants. They want  
23 to be lieutenants. They want to be captains. So how  
24 do I get ahead? If it means if I'm unleashed on  
25 certain people in society, this is what I'll do. And

1 again, in the absence of accountability.

2           When I dissect that Rampart Division case and  
3 I see prosecutors now appalled of how people could be  
4 framed, even shot, where were you, courts, when these  
5 cops were lying? Where were you courts when you were  
6 submitting these affidavits? Where were you, your  
7 honor, when you were convicting and sentencing these  
8 people? The absence of checks and balances.

9           Let me amplify that a bit. When I first  
10 became a police officer in the '60s, the Supreme Court  
11 started to issue new findings of Miranda that started  
12 to manifest and certain search and seizure aspects that  
13 led to, whether it be Spinelli on warrants or Chamel on  
14 limitation of searches and what have you. Which meant  
15 that automatically transferred to hearings in the  
16 system.. Each trial was preceded by discovery hearings,  
17 motions to suppress and what have you. These are all  
18 terms that we were kind of conditioned to respond to as  
19 police officers. Meaning that we were questioned by  
20 defense attorneys. The prosecutors had to answer  
21 certain questions along the way to shape the case.

22           I found myself in the '60s and '70s spending  
23 most of my work week in the court being reviewed for my  
24 police actions. Now it's not uncommon in the state of  
25 Connecticut, certainly in the New Haven Police

1 Department, that police officers have years on the job,  
2 seven, eight, 10 years, and never testify in a court of  
3 law. The translation of that is street justice  
4 prevails. No one questions what I do. Certainly the  
5 records of the police department don't reflect what you  
6 do. No one's looking at that type of stuff.

7           And again, as we heard earlier, there's not  
8 even willing compliance from police chiefs on matters  
9 of law. So what does this all translate to, this --  
10 what I call the systemic marginalizing of racism,  
11 sexism, youthism and what have you?

12           And I want to spend some time with the youth  
13 because that's very dear to me personally and that's  
14 very important to these issues. What's the message,  
15 this absence of leadership and this wrong leadership?  
16 What's the message to our young people? And they're  
17 picking it up. They're getting the vibes. All of it.

18           I saw a quote in the paper that rang true to  
19 me because I heard the same exact quote when I first  
20 became police chief in New Haven. The quote was, I  
21 hate them. Why should I give them respect when they  
22 don't respect us.

23           That was a quote by Reggie Miller recently of  
24 the Indiana Pacers, referring to the New York Knicks  
25 for the upcoming playoff series.



1           That's the same exact quote as when I went to  
2 Wilberforce High School, talking to the adolescents in  
3 that school. We hate your cops because they don't  
4 respect us and why should we respect you. And I knew I  
5 had serious problems on what we'd have to do about  
6 that.

7           And I think you'll find that pretty much the  
8 case today. And again, because we've been on a  
9 different mission. Federal standards have a lot to  
10 play in that. Many towns and cities you go into, we  
11 follow federal guidelines, whether it be the crime  
12 bill, the money. The mother's milk is created and  
13 that's what leads us. Federal forfeiture laws. The war  
14 on drugs, the war on crime. We stopped being service  
15 agents of society.

16           You don't hear the term public servant any  
17 more, do you? When was the last time you heard it?

18           We're mercenaries. We're soldiers in the  
19 federal war. And through my years when I met with the  
20 drug czars and my dear friend Lee Brown and Bill  
21 Bennett and even as far as Hillary Clinton. Please  
22 take this out of your drug war. Let us have a local  
23 identity. Let us be local cops with our community.  
24 That's what's important. We're disengaged.

25           And the system that feeds with the mother's

1 milk disengages us more because we're at war with  
2 society all the time. And we're asking our cops to do  
3 too much. We're asking them to be mean spirited. We  
4 train them to be militaristic from SWAT to  
5 confrontational behavior.

6           A recent expose, two days, Sunday and Monday,  
7 is a must reading in the Decatur City Star on federal  
8 forfeiture and the abuses across the country. It's  
9 clearly indicated how police chiefs avoid the state  
10 mandates on forfeiture and go to the federal because  
11 it's less inclined and less restrictive. And those  
12 monies were supposed to go to education.

13           Again, all of these abuses are happening and  
14 no one's saying stop it. No one's saying stop,  
15 including the state of Connecticut, by the way.

16           It's not a coincidence that our police are  
17 killing people in large numbers in the state of  
18 Connecticut in the last few years. That's not a  
19 coincidence, an anomaly. It's part of what we've come  
20 to be. And really, it's not getting the attention it  
21 should be.

22           When's the last time you can remember a dozen  
23 unarmed people getting killed by police, running from  
24 the police or what have you. You have to look at those  
25 things and do studies on them or what have you.

1           But getting back to the youth, is when I was  
2 challenged with these hate remarks and I knew I had a  
3 problem, we did something in New Haven that worked. We  
4 used the community as best we can. We toned down our  
5 police. We formed the Young Adult Board of Police  
6 Commissioners empowered to be with us and get in our  
7 face if they had to. We often incurred their wrath.

8           And there were 26 of them. And half of the  
9 were elected by their peers in high schools. The other  
10 half were appointed by the mayor. And they met with  
11 this police chief on a regular basis. And they were  
12 wonderful to interact with. And our department soon  
13 came to accept them. The department rejected them at  
14 first. Who are these young punk kids coming to our  
15 police department. That didn't last long.

16           I never met a cop that didn't like a kid, by  
17 the way.

18           Then we started to deal with violence. New  
19 Haven was a violent city at one time and I'm sure  
20 Bridgeport was. We engaged the Yale community,  
21 especially the mental health people, Donald Combs,  
22 Peter Maravich, Mayor Burkman. And we trained all our  
23 Yale officers to identify children traumatized by  
24 violence. And then we trained Yale psychologists and  
25 psychiatrists to understand what the policing aspect of

1 that is and what do we do about it.

2 We made house calls 24 hours a day. No one  
3 else does. So, what we did is -- entering into a  
4 contract with Yale, and they made house calls with us.  
5 When we had a shooting and someone traumatized by  
6 violence, they immediately responded with us.

7 Not only did it translate to a benefit for  
8 the child, more often than the single parent, it made  
9 the cop feel human for a change. He went home at night  
10 and discussed with his family you know what I did  
11 today. I worked with a youngster. And it transcends  
12 race and gender.

13 Stop asking our cops to do the impossible, to  
14 be mean spirited, and put them in more -- and then give  
15 them medals when they shoot someone. Change the reward  
16 system. Create a level playing field and work with  
17 people.

18 Thank you.

19 BOARD MEMBER GROSS: Thank you very much.

20 I'd like to remind each of you that you have  
21 -- we'd like you to, if you want to revise and extend  
22 your remarks, that they should be sent to Dr. Chung by  
23 June 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Washington Office, Civil Rights  
24 Office.

25 And now if you care to make comments to one

1 another, then we'll also ask anyone in the audience who  
2 wants to ask questions of you.

3 Is there anyone who wishes to?

4 AUDIENCE: I have a question.

5 BOARD MEMBER GROSS: It is addressed to anyone  
6 special?

7 AUDIENCE: Mr. Meekins.

8 CHAIRMAN MACY: Would you give your name  
9 first? Would you come up to the microphone so we can  
10 get it on the record, please?

11 AUDIENCE: Good morning. My name is Frank  
12 Cortez. I'm a probation officer in Bridgeport. The  
13 question I have for Mr. Meekins is that does any person  
14 of color have a chance, fair and reasonable chance, to  
15 become a chief with the police department in  
16 Bridgeport?

17 That's my question.

18 MR. MEEKINS: That's your question? To date,  
19 many changes have come about. In the past, I'd say no.  
20 But today, with the court requirements, they've made  
21 some changes in the way we test and the way the police  
22 department does things and the way Civil Service does  
23 things.

24 And the procedure today is that an  
25 independent agency is hired by the city to do a

1 nationwide search because of the charter change.  
2 Before, you just were promoted up through the police  
3 department and the highest ranking officers, which were  
4 a pool of three, then took the test to become the  
5 chief.

6           Today, a national search is required. There  
7 are time restraints. Today, I believe the  
8 International Chiefs of Police is conducting a search  
9 for the city of Bridgeport for the next chief of police  
10 because Chief Sweeney resigned and went to another  
11 location. So now we have an acting chief who is  
12 Hispanic.

13           The International Chiefs of Police is doing a  
14 nationwide search. They give all recipients to respond  
15 to Civil Service. Civil Service then conducts the  
16 exam. The mayor, after getting a recommendation of the  
17 three top candidates, interviews those three top  
18 candidates.

19           There is some citizen participation in the  
20 mix. The three top candidates are then reviewed and  
21 the mayor selects. So, depending on the pool of  
22 respondents, today we have a good chance of getting a  
23 black, Hispanic or white that is made chief of the  
24 police department.

25           AUDIENCE: Thank you.

1 MR. PASTORE: Can I just respond to that?

2 I just want to clarify something along the  
3 line. I think it's wonderful that everyone has an  
4 opportunity to be police chief based on their  
5 qualifications; women, minorities or what have you.  
6 However, don't make the mistake of thinking that's the  
7 answer to your problem.

8 I deal with police chiefs all over this  
9 country, even blacks. And I have just as much problem  
10 with black police chiefs, Hispanic police chiefs, too.  
11 If you don't deal with the philosophy and connecting  
12 and engaging and de-emphasize the war aspect, but don't  
13 see that as a cure-all.

14 MR. GRABARZ: I would actually -- if I could  
15 say something -- agree with Nick. And I think that the  
16 police and fire departments in the city of Hartford are  
17 good examples of the fact that color is not an  
18 indicator of good police service and that  
19 professionalism and diversity are indicators.

20 MR. MEEKINS: And just as a response, a  
21 hearing process. And I agree with what has been said.  
22 But on top of that, if you're trying to wear too many  
23 hats to accomplish too many things and make too many  
24 promises it's not going to work. But depending on the  
25 dichotomy of the community, depending on the intermix

1 of the community and the police department, it does  
2 good things to see positive images. It does good  
3 things when I can see a black police chief. As a black  
4 officer, it makes me feel good. When I see a Hispanic  
5 police chief, as a black officer it still makes me feel  
6 good to see people rising above that unlevel playing  
7 field.

8           It didn't just come here like that. It took  
9 many years of taking a lot of stuff and still surviving  
10 to be able to compete on a level playing field. And  
11 the playing field did not get level because people  
12 wanted to make it level. It got level because there  
13 was a lot of intervention.

14           And, yes, they had to compete. No one gave  
15 any of those black police chiefs a silver spoon where  
16 they automatically got their position because they were  
17 of color or because they were Hispanic. You have to  
18 look high and low throughout these whole United States  
19 to find people of color, minorities, who run police  
20 departments. You do not have to go that far to find  
21 whites who run police departments.

22           And when they do bad things, we have  
23 monumental decisions in court, as the chief already  
24 spoke. Pastore. About California. They're locking up  
25 cops and releasing prisoners. That's a sad commentary.



1           AUDIENCE: I'd like to, if I may, I asked the  
2 question. I just started a business. I'm a manager,  
3 professional manager by profession and I have studied  
4 hiring and recruiting and promoting whites and  
5 minorities.

6           BOARD MEMBER GROSS: A little bit louder,  
7 please.

8           AUDIENCE: I own a business. I'm a  
9 professional manager.

10          BOARD MEMBER GROSS: Excuse me, sir, but we  
11 have other people who want to ask questions, and I  
12 haven't even given the panel here a chance.

13          AUDIENCE: For clarification. When I asked a  
14 question of minorities, I'm not inclined that a  
15 minority, a person of color should be hired because  
16 he's not competent, because I know that person should  
17 be competent. And the tradition is that you use  
18 research, international interviews, national  
19 interviews, local interviews to develop information to  
20 reject minorities, competent minorities.

21          BOARD MEMBER GROSS: Thank you.

22                I do want to hear from those of you who have  
23 come but I think I first ought to really ask the  
24 members of the Advisory Board if they have any  
25 questions of the panel. And I neglected to do that

1 before, and I apologize.

2 CHAIRMAN MACY: Yes. I have two questions.  
3 The first question relates to the public defender  
4 system which was talked about by a couple of the  
5 speakers. And what I wanted to know, whether the  
6 attorneys, Mr. Musto and Mr. Grabarz or any of the  
7 other, feel that the responsibility for some of the  
8 courts' outrageous decisions and accepting testimony of  
9 police officers is predicated on the fact that the  
10 level of public defender attorneys was not good enough  
11 to really protect the rights of people who are bringing  
12 actions against the police.

13 Is there a correlation between the two as far  
14 as you folks see it?

15 MR. MUSTO: I actually don't do criminal cases  
16 so I'll have to defer to Joe about that on that issue.

17 MR. GRABARZ: And I think that there are other  
18 panelists that can speak to this, but I think that our  
19 experience just in the review of the public defender  
20 system was that there were some attempts at  
21 compensation but that the results of that wasn't to  
22 bring the system more in balance. But I would say that  
23 the result of that was to perhaps even more unbalance  
24 the system.

1           And the bending of the rules even by judges  
2 to allow a wider scope of testimony, if I think that's  
3 what you're getting at, didn't necessarily make any of  
4 the trials that were occurring before them more fair.

5           The real problem was that you had some very  
6 competent attorneys but that the ability of a public  
7 defender to hire investigators, for example, just to  
8 even see if the witnesses that were being brought in by  
9 the prosecutor and the police debarments were  
10 legitimate or were even real, whether there were even  
11 other witnesses available on the scene.

12           If you were a public defender, and you had 60  
13 cases that you had to dispose of or in some way deal  
14 with before a judge this week, there were people who  
15 were facing major, major convictions and serious jail  
16 time who only spent 10 or 15 minutes with their  
17 attorneys before they stood in front of a judge. And  
18 that 10 or 15 minutes consisted of the attorneys  
19 telling them, look, I've looked at your file before we  
20 got in here and I think your best bet is just is to  
21 stand and just say guilty.

22           And that was what was being passed as  
23 adequate representation.

24           Now, that was hurting the public defenders as  
25 much as it was anybody else because here they were

1 trying to have to make their own value judgments about  
2 which of their clients to spend time on and which not.  
3 And the result of it was that there is a very serious  
4 racial imbalance in the Connecticut judicial system  
5 about who gets convicted and who serves what amount of  
6 time.

7 MR. PASTORE: My experience, it's a very  
8 profound question. I see an alarming increase in  
9 recent years. There's not a week that goes by some of  
10 my officers and one other I'll mention, and that is  
11 it's important to know that 96 percent of the cases are  
12 plea bargained out. Less than 1.5 percent go to trial  
13 to verdict.

14 The plea bargaining process, especially if  
15 you have a record or you're a minority. There's a  
16 process of intimidation. If you don't plead guilty  
17 you're going to get this. If you plead guilty --

18 What I'm telling you is that there are many  
19 innocent people, innocent of that crime who plead  
20 guilty because of the intimidation process. That's a  
21 fact. And there many people that can attest to it.

22 So when you're in the system, the system  
23 further demonizes the process.

24 The other aspect that's polarizing our  
25 community in the state of Connecticut, and I speak to

1 families on an ongoing basis. When we transferred more  
2 than 500 Connecticut inmates to Virginia, I had nothing  
3 but calls and letters on my desk overnight by the  
4 disconnected, disenfranchised families or what have  
5 you. Now the anger starts to manifest not only with  
6 the prisoner but with their friends and relatives and  
7 what have you. That has created so much anger in the  
8 state of Connecticut that again, it ruins our  
9 credibility.

10           These are the type of decisions that are made  
11 that do not engage the community and there's not a  
12 thought process of caring. That's a mean spirited  
13 decision. And expect a mean reaction to those type of  
14 things.

15           CHAIRMAN MACY: And the second one is may a  
16 naive question. I'd be very interested in a PAL system  
17 of getting the community more closely related to the  
18 police departments and I always wondered -- and I think  
19 Mr. Meekins and Mr. Pastore can speak to it probably  
20 better. Do you think that this has been an effective  
21 device?

22           And if you feel it has, how can you go about  
23 establishing even more effective a system?

24           MR. MEEKINS: It's not a naive question and  
25 it's an important question no how to have youth have

1 more interrelation between youth and police  
2 departments. Because -- let's face it. When you drive  
3 down an urban city's main boulevard, or just go  
4 shopping at your local malls, you see large clusters of  
5 youth gathered there for shopping, for fun or whatever.  
6 When you drive through an urban community you see large  
7 groups of kids doing various things; some positive,  
8 some negative. And you see the police department as an  
9 island as itself someplace. There needs to be more of  
10 a connected issue.

11           Community policing in some communities are  
12 really community policing, where the police officer is  
13 out there walking the beat, interacting with residents.  
14 PAL, as we called it some years ago, was the Police  
15 Athletic League. Unfortunately in our community, the  
16 Bridgeport Police Department, it was sued because it  
17 did not invite blacks and Hispanics into the system.  
18 It was predominantly an exclusive club of activities  
19 for the 450 or more white police officers' kids. And  
20 it was not an inclusive element for the community as  
21 most people think it would be and it should have been.

22           I ran personally a community center in Father  
23 Pannick Village. At that time it was one of the  
24 roughest housing projects in Bridgeport. It is now  
25 torn down. HUD refused to put another dime into the

1 place. But we had young kids. They fought all the  
2 time, so I thought it would be good to form a boxing  
3 team. And we invited PAL to come in and make these  
4 kids part of their boxing team. Next thing I knew,  
5 they were being taken off to another community and  
6 being jetted up to fight in New York. This defeated  
7 the whole purpose.

8           So, yes, it should be an inclusive element  
9 where our kids can participate with the police  
10 departments.

11           MR. PASTORE: Just quickly. I think all of  
12 that is good if it's part of a philosophy and not a  
13 program. For instance, if you followed the DEAR  
14 programs and recent studies, the DEAR program concept  
15 has come under attack. And I was an outspoken critic.  
16 Marty Walsh can attest to that in conferences or what  
17 have you many years before it came out because we can't  
18 send that schizophrenic message. You can't be Mr.  
19 Rogers in the morning and Rambo at night. There's got  
20 to be something in between. You've got to connect.  
21 You've got to be nice. And It's got to be genuine.  
22 It's got to be real.

23           All of that is good. And mentioning the  
24 Justice Department's Community Service Division, they  
25 were frequent visitors to my department. As a matter

1 of fact, his predecessor, Josh Liber, an African-  
2 American, when he stepped down they wouldn't let him  
3 retire. He happened to have connections to New Haven.  
4 I hired him. You've got to send those messages,  
5 subliminal messages, strong messages all the time that  
6 we care about people. And dignity and respect is the  
7 most important issue. That has to come out of the  
8 bully pulpits of the federal system and the state  
9 governor and what have you. All that kind of stuff.  
10 And I don't feel that. I feel more the war.

11 BOARD MEMBER GROSS: Thank you.

12 I think that Pat Johnson wanted to ask a  
13 question.

14 BOARD MEMBER JOHNSON: This is a quick  
15 question for any member of the panel who may have  
16 knowledge of this.

17 There was reference earlier to the inadequacy  
18 of training of Bridgeport police officers around  
19 cultural competence issues and I'm wondering at the  
20 present time what kind of training exists for  
21 professional development for police officers in the  
22 city of Bridgeport, both in the area of cultural  
23 competence and professional development,  
24 professionalism.

25 MR. MEEKINS: One of the things I've taken a



1 look at. That's been one of the Guardians' main thrust  
2 in our court litigation and rulings and requests to the  
3 police department and to the mayor to do more  
4 sensitivity training. I mean, real training.

5 All these court decisions that are coming  
6 down, the one thing we hear in court as soon as someone  
7 has to go before the federal master or the federal  
8 judge is -- and our attorney here, Vince Musto -- have  
9 you seen this document? It's a court decision. And  
10 every police supervisor pleads ignorance of the law.  
11 And of course, it always reminds me ignorance of the  
12 law is no excuse.

13 They always say I didn't know about it. So  
14 training is of utmost importance and we're pushing for  
15 it constantly to bring in community folk. Not have  
16 police just do police training, as I heard Nick Pastore  
17 speak about it. It has to be genuine. You have to  
18 have input from community people to come in and address  
19 police, not in a militaristic form but in the common  
20 everyday contacts that police make.

21 An unfortunately, most police departments you  
22 always hear 75 percent of the training deals with only  
23 about 15 percent of the work you do. And the other 25  
24 percent of your training deals with about 80 percent of  
25 the work you do.

1           So it's disproportionate training for which  
2 you're really being prepared for.

3           MR. MUSTO: One other comment on that sort of  
4 general issue. As part of the negotiations that were  
5 entered into with the police department that resulted  
6 in getting rid of the Commission as a disciplinary  
7 authority, a lot of other issues were on the table.  
8 And one of them is training. And a big issue sort of  
9 subsuming training really is the focus on community  
10 policing.

11           I'm sure Pete Pastore can talk about that.  
12 But Bridgeport claims to do community policing.  
13 Because there were some questions about that, we hired  
14 a consultant, a woman from Michigan named Bonnie  
15 Buckaroo, who is, along with a guy named Trajanowitz,  
16 wrote the book on community policing. She looked at  
17 what we have and she said it's not community policing.

18           The federal government throws money at  
19 various things. If they threw money at banana  
20 policing, we'd do banana policing. But we're doing  
21 community policing now. And the issue really is if  
22 Bridgeport is going to do community policing, that's  
23 going to require a lot of sensitivity and a lot of  
24 understanding of what goes on in neighborhoods as  
25 opposed to having community cops sitting in parking

1 lots at the Wonderland of Ice and not getting out on  
2 the beat and talking to people.

3           So that is going to be an area that we're  
4 going to focus on.

5           MR. PASTORE: Just an extension of Mr.  
6 Johnson's question. I consider part of the training,  
7 the selection process, is very important, too. It's  
8 when you set up your criteria. You want to focus in on  
9 those service oriented candidates, not the events  
10 oriented candidates. And you've got to watch out for  
11 what I call the Uncle Fidutz syndrome. That's how you  
12 get a job in most cities. You call Uncle Fidutz, it's  
13 a political connection, and that's how you get the job.

14           And we only heard of real qualifications when  
15 we started to get affirmative action. Then Uncle  
16 Fidutz was displaced a little bit and the work  
17 qualifications started to manifest. Prior to  
18 affirmative action, you didn't need qualifications.

19           But the service oriented -- let me again cite  
20 what I call a very in place program in New Haven,  
21 Connecticut. Part of our graduating from the training  
22 under Kay Collidge, a non-police person, by the way who  
23 was brought in as training director -- and again, the  
24 federal community services was part of it in New Haven.  
25 She had a Ph.D. from Yale in theater. Lot of acting

1 goes on in police work so you can get the connection.

2           Prior to graduating from the New Haven Police  
3 Academy is you have a term project. And the term  
4 project includes living and understanding the homeless  
5 population, understanding the gay/lesbian population,  
6 people living and dying with HIV, and so on and so on.  
7 Battered women shelters, women and domestic violence  
8 situations.

9           In each team, people present this entire  
10 project to the class and you actually see cops cry.  
11 And that's when you know you're making headway when you  
12 see that aspect of it.

13           Level the playing field. Let them know the  
14 city. Don't unleash them on segments of society  
15 because they look different, dress different or even  
16 smell different.

17           BOARD MEMBER GROSS: Thank you.

18           MR. GRABARZ: I would actually like to address  
19 that, if I could, Marg, because I think it's probably  
20 the most important question that we can answer here  
21 today, based on what the topic is for the panel. And  
22 it's not just Bridgeport.

23           I remember when Tom Bucci was in the mayor's  
24 office and I worked in his office. The important thing  
25 at the department was to get accreditation by a

1 national association. Well, no one in Bridgeport talks  
2 about accreditation any more. When Nick was chief in  
3 New Haven, Talk, Walk and Listen was one of the most  
4 important community programs on the streets and the  
5 city. That doesn't necessarily mean two police chiefs  
6 after him that's going to be a priority again. That  
7 will change and that will shift.

8           Let me get back to what I mentioned during my  
9 remarks. John Conyers has a bill in the United States  
10 Congress which would require minimum standards for the  
11 training and development of police officers. Even in  
12 the state of Connecticut we've fought a number of years  
13 for minimum standards for the training and development  
14 of police officers. That does not exist. Professional  
15 associations have always balked at that.

16           We in the state of Connecticut regulate down  
17 to the period and cross the "T" and dot the "I" what  
18 people who do your nails have to be required to perform  
19 before they even touch your fingers. We have standards  
20 that fill pages and volumes on what people who drive  
21 buses need to do before they put the key in the  
22 ignition. But the group of people that we give the  
23 power over life and death, literally are licensed to  
24 kill in the state of Connecticut, we do not have a  
25 statewide or a national minimum standards requirement

1 for what a police department needs to do to perform and  
2 to train and what an individual police officer needs to  
3 do and perform to train.

4 Now, if we face this same disregard with the  
5 power over life and death that doctors, for example,  
6 have, we would be in an uproar. But yet that same  
7 ability and that same exercise of authority over life  
8 and death we do not require any kind of minimum  
9 standards.

10 For example, we do not even have agreement or  
11 standardization of when a chase begins and ends when it  
12 crosses a town line. So the departments are literally  
13 shooting at each other at town barriers.

14 And most departments in the state have less  
15 than 15 minutes of automobile training for police  
16 officers. So when you talk about just community  
17 training, how even just the professional aspects of the  
18 job are performed are so lacking in any kind of  
19 standardization or minimum standards.

20 The other problem in Connecticut is that we  
21 are a very isolated -- we have a state of isolated  
22 communities. We are not a homogeneous state. We are a  
23 state in which most towns approach over 90 percent  
24 white and other towns approach 50, 40, 35 percent  
25 minority. We have high concentrations of different

1 ethnic groups and different racial groups. And do  
2 requiring diversity training in Bridgeport is not  
3 necessarily going to affect what happens when a black  
4 person drives through Trumbull, Connecticut. And  
5 that's been the problem time and time again through  
6 community through community across the state.

7           So I think that we need some statewide  
8 minimum standards about what is a good police  
9 department, what is a good police officer.

10           BOARD MEMBER GROSS: Those were very  
11 interesting comments. Thank you.

12           And Dr. Chung, you wanted to --

13           MR. CHUN: Yes. There's a theme running  
14 through that for any effective change to come about it  
15 has to be a commitment at the highest level of  
16 leadership. That the political leadership has to be  
17 committed to bring about change. And I couldn't agree  
18 more with that.

19           I'm interested in pursuing that a little  
20 further, maybe as a way of peeling off one layer. I  
21 would just phrase my question this way. As I do it,  
22 I'm mindful of the observation that Joe made that in  
23 the state of Connecticut we now have anti-profiling  
24 laws but many police chiefs are resisting compliance  
25 with that mandate.

1           So with that in mind, I'd like to have all of  
2 you comment on what will it take or what will be the  
3 incentive or disincentives, what would help or  
4 discourage or prevent any police chief in the city of  
5 Bridgeport to implement good policing in connection  
6 with political leadership.

7           MR. PASTORE: On this particular issue, it's  
8 accountability. Once the law of past, it can't be a  
9 sham law. It has to be followed through and given the  
10 level of importance and support whether it be the  
11 governor's office, the state legislature, and also  
12 those charged with the leadership responsibilities, the  
13 head of the state police, the chief state's attorney's  
14 office, and also the local state's attorneys and  
15 departments themselves. There has to be an  
16 accountability factor. If you're not in compliance,  
17 your department will pay whatever, a fine or what have  
18 you, and answer the question why if you're called into  
19 court.

20           Again, there's always been that problem. I  
21 don't see the accountability factor.

22           The other aspect of it is I just attended --  
23 and I was very impressed with the Kentucky conference  
24 run by the Attorney General, Empowering the Black  
25 Community in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. These issues should be



1 part of what Joe was talking about, part of the  
2 accreditation process, part of what's mandated for you  
3 to sustain your accreditation as a sworn officer or  
4 police chief should be part of this system, more and  
5 more of this type of conference.

6           It sends a message from the governor. The  
7 Attorney General's name is Shandler. It's Happy  
8 Shandler's grandson in Kentucky. That's a strong  
9 message from the Attorney General's office and criminal  
10 justice was a very strong component of this three-day  
11 conference on the issue.

12           Those messages aren't coming out. As a  
13 matter of fact, I'll give you a glaring example.

14           When Governor Rollin came out in support of  
15 the racial profiling and also questioned -- and we did  
16 a study with Duke in '98 -- questioning the feasibility  
17 and the credibility of cops policing themselves, like  
18 in the Malique Jones case in New Haven, Connecticut, he  
19 was attacked by the police. They were demonstrating in  
20 front of his office. And the police unions, which are  
21 another component of this situation. There has to be  
22 an outreach and understanding of how do we get the  
23 labor movement involved in what's best for society.  
24 They're a separate entity, too; a major issue that we  
25 all must deal with, the labor component of this.

1           So I again go back to leadership and  
2    accountability. If we have a law, it shouldn't be the  
3    Civil Liberties Union going it alone on obvious issues.  
4    It should be this is what the people of Connecticut  
5    want. And you no longer have 169 towns or cities. We  
6    have 170. The 170<sup>th</sup> one is prisons.

7           There's 20,000 people in prison. Seventy-  
8    three percent are minorities. Seventy-five percent of  
9    the 73 percent have the equivalent of a 6<sup>th</sup> grade  
10   education. These are obvious indicators. Obvious  
11   indicators that we're not reconciling and dealing with.  
12   And the police are on the front line taking the brunt  
13   of it. And society is asking us, the police, to be the  
14   garbage collectors for the 90 percent of what suburbs.  
15   That's what this is about.

16           We're here to talk about civil rights and  
17    race and that's the issue. Now how do we bring that  
18    together is an uplift and it's a big challenge.

19           MR. MUSTO: I think one of the things that has  
20    to change on that is really external pressure. I have  
21    been here long enough, over 20 years now, and I've seen  
22    the cesspool of Bridgeport politics for that length fo  
23    time. I have not seen one person in that environment  
24    in the city government for my money that has stood up  
25    and said enough is enough. It just doesn't happen.

1           And I despair of it happening with the way  
2 the government in Bridgeport works. So to me what's  
3 going to happen to change things is external pressure,  
4 whether in the case of the Guardians, internally in the  
5 department, it's been litigation.

6           If we had not brought the lawsuits that we  
7 brought, you would still have a police department with  
8 450 cops and 25 minorities. It's been the external  
9 pressure of the courts. But I think there's other  
10 kinds of external pressure.

11           One of the kinds of external pressure is  
12 pressure from the neighborhoods and pressure from  
13 community people that say we've had enough. We aren't  
14 going to put up with this any more.

15           And politicians here are like politicians  
16 anywhere. They respond to perceived threats on their  
17 position. So that's either from lawsuits, which gets  
18 them bad press or from people in the neighborhoods who  
19 stand up and say you're not going to be a politician  
20 here any more.

21           So to me that's the direction that it needs  
22 to come from.

23           MR. MEEKINS: The other element in our  
24 experience is politicians look at numbers. If you have  
25 a large white community and a small minority community,

1 the numbers will not dictate change. The police  
2 department, if it's all white and you have a few  
3 blacks, you cannot go to the union meeting and put a  
4 motion on the floor. You're going to be outvoted.

5 It has to come -- and I agree with what Vince  
6 has said -- from outside pressure.

7 We filed -- I was part of the litigation  
8 against the fire department because there were no  
9 blacks in the fire department at all. A \$6 million  
10 lawsuit award. That had to come out of people's  
11 pockets. The perpetrators, nothing.

12 So when there's no accountability, as Chief  
13 Pastore just said, from higher ups, no one was  
14 disciplined. The citizens were saddled with a \$6  
15 million litigation bill they had to pay. No change  
16 came about until the court brought in change.

17 In another arena, when the threat of federal  
18 dollars was going to be stopped, not only the federal  
19 dollars coming in but the city was told they would have  
20 to pay back monies that they had received already, then  
21 people began to talk meaningfully because there were  
22 monetary restraints that the city would have to go back  
23 and find monies to pay back to the government because  
24 they were ineligible to receive federal funds.

25 If you've been found guilty of

1 discrimination, you cannot receive federal funding  
2 because there's a sign-off. The affirmative action  
3 officer has to sign off that we are doing things  
4 according to law. It's a violation of law.

5 BOARD MEMBER GROSS: Okay. Thank you.

6 MR. GRABARZ: I'd actually like to talk about  
7 federal funding.

8 BOARD MEMBER GROSS: Just make it brief  
9 because we have a couple of questions that we haven't  
10 been able to get to.

11 MR. GRABARZ: The United States Office of  
12 Civil Rights and the Police Misconduct Division  
13 federally gets \$1 million to investigate police  
14 misconduct. By all objective analysis of that figure,  
15 in order to do at least a cursory job, that department  
16 needs at least \$5 million in funding.

17 And so being 75 percent underfunded at the  
18 federal level for federal investigation of police  
19 misconduct is something that could have an immediate  
20 impact.

21 I think the increasing professionalization of  
22 individual police officers and encouraging those kind  
23 of minimum standards for particularly education and  
24 training levels will get the rank and file over time  
25 fed up with the interference of politics in the running

1 of departments.

2           And then I think the third thing is that  
3 litigation just needs to continue in order to increase  
4 for politicians, from a minority of people --  
5 particularly minorities concerned about how policing is  
6 done in their community -- to a majority of people,  
7 those people need to start realizing the impact that  
8 paying wrongful death suits and other kinds of  
9 expensive litigation on towns is having on their  
10 individual tax basis.

11           And so I think a combination of finances at  
12 both local and the federal level and the personal  
13 level, as it involves police training, can have a  
14 significant impact on how departments develop  
15 professionally and how politics recedes.

16           BOARD MEMBER GROSS: Thank you very much.

17           The gentleman in the uniform has had his hand  
18 up for a long time. And then you.

19           AUDIENCE: Captain Ortiz from the Bridgeport  
20 Police Department.

21           I'm assigned to community service, and I  
22 heard some comments here. And when I went to the  
23 National Academy I took their community policing class  
24 and ex-chief Pastore, there was a segment on him and  
25 some of the efforts he was making in New Haven.

1            Bridgeport is unique. I really think we  
2 don't get the credit. We're at community meetings many  
3 times. We're not getting paid. We're mobilizing  
4 communities. We have a community council that's made  
5 up of communities throughout Bridgeport, which Ted  
6 Meekins happens to be the president of the East End  
7 community.

8            We've got the SRO's in the schools, no  
9 federal money. That's Chief Torres' decision to commit  
10 Walk the Talk or Talk the Walk. He's removed five  
11 officers from patrol and put them in the schools.

12            Now, the initiatives that Bridgeport has done  
13 is incredible. It really is. And I was a 15-year --  
14 for 15 years I was a hard core street cop. Now I'm up  
15 in community service. I had no idea of what we did and  
16 how we shared with the community.

17            So I think some of the things that we may  
18 have had in community policing was not the effort, it  
19 was the direction. Because I see an effort in  
20 Bridgeport, an outreach to the community that I didn't  
21 even know exists. And I was a ranking official, 15  
22 years on the job, and I had no idea that these things  
23 were happening.

24            We've got the officer that does the Spices  
25 program. She always has young females, teaching them

1 all kinds of household trades. We have the SRO's  
2 mentoring in the school. I just had an SRO -- one of  
3 the kinds he was mentoring was put in a detention  
4 center and he's only allowed one visitor a week.  
5 Doesn't pick his mother. Doesn't pick his father. He  
6 picks the SRO in the school.

7 BOARD MEMBER GROSS: Officer, could you make  
8 mention of the definition in your testimony?

9 OFFICER ORTIZ: SRO is the School Resource  
10 Officer. I'm sorry for the acronym. But we've really  
11 done a lot. And I think part of our failure in  
12 community policing was we never got away from the  
13 initial or the pilot program. And I think we never  
14 made it a department wide policy. Community policing  
15 sort of stood in its infancy and that's where we  
16 failed, I believe.

17 VICE CHAIRMAN WHARTON: Office, I'd like to  
18 ask a question. How many students of our young people  
19 would you share with us that would be involved in that  
20 community outreach program?

21 OFFICER ORTIZ: I don't have the numbers with  
22 me.

23 VICE CHAIRMAN WHARTON: I mean a range. Five  
24 hundred?

25 OFFICER ORTIZ: It's got to be thousands,



1 literally. I mean, Ruby has to have 200. The SRO's in  
2 the school have thousands of children. I have one SRO  
3 that coaches basketball. Everyone's involved in the  
4 student's assistance team and what they call IAP,  
5 individual action plan for kids that are headed in the  
6 wrong direction.

7 So these are things that are happening.

8 Yesterday we talked about the press. You  
9 don't seem to get the press on. I bet you there's very  
10 few people here that knew that Bridgeport cops were in  
11 the schools.

12 VICE CHAIRMAN WHARTON: Now this program is  
13 ongoing and has continuity and has been enforced for a  
14 number of years?

15 OFFICER ORTIZ: Yes. The school resource  
16 officer program has been in effect since September.  
17 This year. This year.

18 MR. MUSTO: I just wanted to comment. I think  
19 Jesus what you're saying is that Bridgeport has made  
20 some steps. But there's something else you said in  
21 there that was very interesting. You said you were --  
22 and I know your reputation and the work you've done as  
23 a street cop for 15 years. But you didn't know about  
24 it for 15 years. And it's not your fault you didn't  
25 now about it. And that's the problem in Bridgeport.

1           We've got a cop like you who's out on the  
2 street doing a job and isn't aware of the fact that  
3 there are some people in some parts of the department  
4 that are doing things that are, if you want to call it  
5 community policing or whatever. And what Bridgeport  
6 needs to do to be a more effective department is  
7 everybody has to know about it and everybody has to buy  
8 into it.

9           And I know you bought into it but the fact  
10 that you didn't know about it and the fact that I  
11 guarantee you many of the street cops don't know about  
12 it and don't like it. If they know about it, it's a  
13 real problem. And when the department is going to  
14 change is when that focus on really getting into the  
15 community the way you're doing becomes something  
16 everybody does in this department.

17           BOARD MEMBER GROSS: I thought he just said  
18 that the program only existed since September.

19           MR. MUSTO: No. That's only the school  
20 resource officer. Other parts have been in existence.

21           MR. PASTORE: Just quickly, most officers are  
22 like this good sergeant here. It's up to the  
23 leadership to bring out the best in the behavior.  
24 That's the key here.

25           And what that sergeant is highlighting is

1 anonymity is the officer's worse enemy. We all have to  
2 have identity. We have a name and the people we're  
3 dealing with are not faceless perpetrators and victims.  
4 They're people like us. There's the key to the success  
5 and the commitment.

6 OFFICER ORTIZ: I just want to state that the  
7 efforts are being made and I think ex-chief Pastore,  
8 hit the nail on the head when he said accountability  
9 and leadership. But the efforts are being made because  
10 I have my police officers out there, and if they're not  
11 out there, believe me, they answer to me. It's part of  
12 the way I operate.

13 So good efforts are being made.

14 Thank you.

15 BOARD MEMBER GROSS: We appreciate your having  
16 come and shared that with us.

17 Yes?

18 AUDIENCE: My name is Sabina Cutzo. I'm a  
19 city resident and I also work for the city of  
20 Bridgeport. My question is about the effectiveness of  
21 the community --

22 BOARD MEMBER GROSS: Did you give your name?

23 MS. CUTZO: Yes, sir. My question relates to  
24 the effectiveness of community policing when we have a  
25 remedy order in Bridgeport. And I just wanted to see

1 what some of the thoughts are because I was part of '92  
2 when we started community policing in Bridgeport. I  
3 know in the beginning we did have very much success. I  
4 agree over the last few years we've slacked because of  
5 several issues. But New Haven, you do not have a  
6 remedy order, correct? Because I know New Haven has  
7 been making a lot of strides in community policing.  
8 But I just want to see what the thoughts are.

9           We have a remedy order. Police officers have  
10 to change their neighborhoods each year. We all know  
11 community policing is to solve problems together  
12 between community and the police. And it cannot be  
13 done in just one year. That's my experience.

14           I've worked with the community. Been doing  
15 my work for the last eight years. And I'm interested  
16 to hear of how that relates.

17           MR. MUSTO: I would be happy to address that.

18           I have known that this is an issue. In the  
19 remedy order one of the requirements is because the  
20 minority cops got such lousy assignments for so long  
21 and got stuck in them, the cops have to be rotated  
22 through patrol assignments every year. And Chief  
23 Sweeney, who was a big proponent of undoing the  
24 rotation portion of the order without providing  
25 anything else as a protection for the minority

1 officers, complained about that frequently to me. And  
2 as well to my wife, who he worked with frequently on  
3 other issues related to gun violence and children's  
4 issues and so forth. And was shocked actually to hear  
5 that we were married.

6 And he used give me information through  
7 Laura. He said, tell your husband this. I said, have  
8 him talk to me directly.

9 So we would ask Chief Sweeney - now he's  
10 gone. We asked for five years. Give us a proposal.  
11 Tell us what you want to do. Stop the rhetoric. Stop  
12 claiming the remedy order interferes with community  
13 policing. Put it on the table. He never did it.

14 The Guardians have been willing forever to  
15 talk about community policing. The Guardians are  
16 probably the biggest proponents of community policing.  
17 One of the things we're going to be dealing with the  
18 city on in negotiating settlement is rotations. The  
19 city said we'd like to change rotations. We'd like to  
20 do community policing. The Guardians say we'd love to  
21 do community policing. Once you really do it, we will  
22 be happy to make changes in the remedy order. But we  
23 are not going to change the remedy order rotations for  
24 limited, ineffective community policing where you a cop  
25 like Jesus Ortiz who's on the street for 15 years and

1 doesn't know it exists.

2           Why? Because nobody bothered to tell him  
3 because nobody made the department take that seriously.  
4 When it's taken seriously, when it's really something  
5 that all the cops in the department are going to be  
6 doing, we will be happy to change the rotations.

7           Let me tell you, the remedy order and the  
8 rotations is not an issue. It's a strawman. And it's  
9 been set up that way because Chief Sweeney didn't like  
10 rotations, not because the Guardians don't like  
11 community policing.

12           MR. PASTORE: When I hear community policing,  
13 naturally my ears perk up. And again, I give you the  
14 philosophy and the workings of the New Haven Police  
15 Department.

16           I first want to thank the sergeant for the  
17 fine work that you're doing. There's the guy that  
18 deserves the medals, not the cops that shoot people.

19           The real gauge of success in community  
20 policing -- and we do this in New Haven. We not only  
21 reduce crime significantly, but more importantly we  
22 reduce arrests.

23           When we have to build more prisons and make  
24 more arrests, that's a sign of failure, not success.  
25 It's keeping people out of the criminal justice system.

1 And how do cops do that? Know every resource that's  
2 available and be able to have an agreement that  
3 facilitates that resources into the situation.

4 Now I know you. You know me. And then the  
5 follow-up with a knock on the door: How is Jimmy doing  
6 today? How is Latetia doing today? Those are the  
7 issues that have to be done.

8 The mission statement for future policing in  
9 America was how can we seek alternatives to the arrest  
10 situation. And what will drive that, not the heart of  
11 human kindness. Fiscal necessity will drive it.

12 As we speak, California is falling apart.  
13 They've eradicated the parole system. Three strikes  
14 and you're out. Judges have no vacancy signs in their  
15 courthouse. That's where you're going with this  
16 situation.

17 Thank you.

18 BOARD MEMBER GROSS: And no one's putting  
19 money into treatment instead of prison for those who  
20 need it.

21 MR. PASTORE: Absolutely.

22 BOARD MEMBER GROSS: You had your hand up,  
23 sir, and then the gentleman in the back row.

24 AUDIENCE: Thank you.

25 Not only do -- first, my name is William

1 Stuart, Bill Stuart. Not only do I work for the  
2 municipality, I also live, eat and sleep here as well.  
3 And I've been very much involved in the community for  
4 many years.

5 This is really great, the dialogue. And I  
6 want to commend you all for coming and sharing some of  
7 the concerns and solutions and putting some problems on  
8 the table that we can all look at.

9 There are two types of communities and I want  
10 to touch on a couple of things that you all mentioned.  
11 And when I sit down, I'll let you guys respond.

12 There are two types, though, communities that  
13 I'm aware of. There's a legal community and there's my  
14 community. In my community, it's such a weird thing.  
15 One of my greatest fears -- if the officer -- could you  
16 please stand up?

17 In the military, I can walk up and hit,  
18 strike a military personnel. I can really get with  
19 him. I'm confident that I would never be harmed  
20 physically by a weapon. Why? In my government he must  
21 get permission to discharge his weapon.

22 Some of the most powerful people in the  
23 community are the police officers. He determines based  
24 on his own decision -- let me see here. Okay. Boom.

25 Now I'm not saying that that exists. These



1 are facts. -- (Off mike.) -- And of course, he  
2 justifies that as day's come.

3 Is that good or is that bad. See, to me it  
4 is fear. Not saying that his judgment is wrong or  
5 right. What I'm saying is that that individual must  
6 use what he has here to make a decision. That touches  
7 bases on what you're saying about having guidelines, et  
8 cetera.

9 The other concern I have, and I have to agree  
10 with you about having African-Americans as chief of  
11 police or whatever. I don't look at color. When my  
12 life -- 30 years ago, I asked for the best doctor. I  
13 didn't ask for a Republican. I didn't ask for a black  
14 or white. I asked for the best doctor. That's because  
15 you're doing something that his my possession. And I  
16 think that should happen here.

17 My greatest concern, and I think we should  
18 work on policies to deal with that like this. None of  
19 this makes sense to many of us here because no one have  
20 really had an opportunity to go in the pits of the  
21 community and deal one on one. You don't understand my  
22 culture. That's a problem. And it will always be a  
23 problem until we as a people begin to deal with it. It  
24 will always be a problem.

25 Community policing, to be honest with you, is

1 a great buzz word. They didn't have a clue. Half of  
2 my salary and half of our salary come from statistics.  
3 My city - and not only my city. And you don't remember  
4 me. I came here to talk about community policing years  
5 ago. And what I don't understand is our city is ran  
6 by public dollars based on statistics. So I think that  
7 these kind of things we should share some serious  
8 dialogue on because when I see prisons go up, that's an  
9 alarm system.

10 When I see a prison go up, that's an alarm  
11 system. Someone says, oh, my gosh, put them somewhere.  
12 That's an alarm system. It costs me more to house an  
13 individual in the prison system than to educate one.  
14 That is sad. That is sad.

15 We can kind of share a dialogue. I believe  
16 that this Committee take back some of the concerns and  
17 no only -- (off mike) -- but we need some serious  
18 policy. And you're right. These statistics are right  
19 because we all read the same book. When you deal with  
20 housing inmates that look like me, and mind you, mind  
21 you, many of them are uneducated -- and I'm got some  
22 reach shocking news. Brace yourself. It's not going  
23 to get better until we deal with it.

24 Thank you.

25 BOARD MEMBER GROSS:, Thank you very much. I

1 didn't mean to try to cut you short but we are almost  
2 running out of time and there's another gentleman there  
3 who has another question that we need to get to.

4           AUDIENCE: My name is Paul Sabrigotis and I  
5 live within Bridgeport for 30 years. I'm going to  
6 start a little bit funny. Once a priest was eulogizing  
7 a dead person and he was so fancy about the words, so  
8 the mother asked one of the sons, go and open the  
9 casket. Is he talking about your father or somebody  
10 else.

11           We're talking about cops. We're talking  
12 about neighborhoods. We're talking about people. I  
13 live in a neighborhood that's a mixed neighborhood. I  
14 grow up to learn to respect the uniform. Sergeant  
15 Ortiz knows my name. But I came to the conclusion to  
16 find out the hard way that being a -- citizen, is no  
17 good.

18           So I find out the hard way that somehow, some  
19 way, some cops are good cops and some cops want to  
20 become politicians.

21           I found out the hard way that some cops,  
22 they're doing their job, and some cops they are so-  
23 called engaged in selective enforcement of the law.  
24 The same thing with some other city agencies.

25           The bottom line is, we, the -- of the city of

1 Bridgeport, they discussed it. I'm frustrated. My  
2 rights are violated every time not by cops but by  
3 everybody in the city. It starts from the -- down to  
4 some school board who thinks he should be president.

5 BOARD MEMBER GROSS: Did you want to comment?

6 MR. PASTORE: I want to comment. Yes.

7 Again, that's directly to this question, the  
8 importance of engaging in these. The gentleman is  
9 pointing out the distinction between good and bad. And  
10 I think that's the point to be made. There shouldn't  
11 be that distinction. There should be a credibility and  
12 competence in the system, especially providing police  
13 services.

14 But before we go on, I just wanted to make  
15 one point that Joe picked up on. I think Mr. Johnson  
16 had raised a question earlier. Two things that I  
17 believe can be addressed.

18 One, Joe, if you don't know this, the Civil  
19 Rights Division of Justice Department recently hired 45  
20 lawyers or are in the process of hiring them. And much  
21 of those lawyers are going to be directed to look at  
22 police corruption issues and what have you. And  
23 certainly if they're not, somebody should be pushing  
24 them in that direction. But my information is they're  
25 moving in that direction.

1           Number two is --

2           MR. GRABARZ: I'm surprised we got results to  
3 fast.

4           MR. PASTORE: How we use that new found  
5 resource -- I learned this in Louisville which had much  
6 more problems than Bridgeport will ever have, by the  
7 way. But hopefully we're working on it. Marty's been  
8 helping me there. But the other thing, too, is that  
9 when we have obviously a rogue cop, we have to make  
10 sure that the government system is not indemnifying  
11 them and protecting them through the process. Cut them  
12 loose.

13           Cops have to be punished. Again, that's the  
14 accountability situation. Towns and cities are quick  
15 to run to their support because of labor pandering to  
16 public passion and labor votes and what have you. But  
17 we've got the obvious, the rogue cop. Don't indemnify  
18 them. Let them work that situation on their own.

19           MR. MEEKINS: I just wanted to also respond to  
20 the gentleman. And I don't know if the first  
21 gentleman's question got answered. I'm not sure. But  
22 I just wanted to respond.

23           Sergeant Ortiz made a comment. He's almost  
24 burnt up. This man is all over the place. On behalf  
25 of community services, community policing, going into

1 various communities trying to resolve and straighten  
2 out problems, along with Sabine there, who has done  
3 great work in working with community groups and helping  
4 community groups organize and form.

5           Just as an example, as an example, I'm  
6 changing hats. Every Wednesday we have community  
7 meetings within our community. There's communities  
8 within communities. We have police officers that walk  
9 the beat. It just so happens I'm a retired police  
10 officer. I happen to run that community council. The  
11 captain comes to our community meetings every Wednesday  
12 along with Sabine and along with the sergeant, along  
13 with officers who walk that beat.

14           We have three schools in our communities.  
15 One of the schools has a school resource officer. We  
16 don't have PAL as it used to be. PAL is now a separate  
17 entity outside the police department. But school  
18 resource officers are police officers assigned to a  
19 particular school. They work all day in that school,  
20 40 hours a week, and they get to know them. They get  
21 to know the teachers and they get to know all the kids  
22 on a first name basis.

23           Now when a police officer can name every kid  
24 in that school, that kid now feels like they're  
25 somebody. This has been a major change. But as you

1 heard, that's only been a program that's been in effect  
2 a few short months ago, September. It's brought major  
3 changes. But the police officer in our community that  
4 walks the beat meets weekly with community residents.  
5 Weekly with business people, faith based institutions  
6 and with youth. Sabine is responsible for helping us to  
7 have clean-ups in the community and running various  
8 programs.

9           So there are some changes but it's not  
10 something that's all over. There are pockets. And as  
11 these pockets form, instead of being pilot programs,  
12 there needs to be money pumped in and make it permanent  
13 programs so that our officers are not surprised when  
14 they get into these projects how in depth it is.

15           BOARD MEMBER GROSS: Thank you.

16           Ross Berman, a member of our committee, has a  
17 question.

18           BOARD MEMBER BERMAN: I'll try to make it  
19 brief. I'm concerned about the training that goes for  
20 police officers. I believe the term involved in the  
21 sensitivity, is their sensitivity training. Are they  
22 trained in the law? Are they trained in anything but  
23 accurate shooting?

24           Are they trained in community awareness? Are  
25 they given any training in like Psych 101 or something?

1 BOARD MEMBER GROSS: That's a question.

2 MR. GRABARZ: Let me start on that because I  
3 think you can give the most in depth answer. But part  
4 of the response to training, the question of training,  
5 is that there is no uniform standard and that training  
6 varies dramatically from town to town and from state to  
7 state and from force to force. And as a result,  
8 enforcement is uneven.

9 So, I don't think that there is a definitive  
10 answer to the part of your question about do they get  
11 training in these. In some departments I believe that  
12 they do get adequate training in some areas and not  
13 others, and vice versa.

14 I think that there are only a few departments  
15 in the state that provide officers with at least a half  
16 adequate box of tools to do the job. And the other  
17 problem in trying to answer the question of what  
18 training, when, how, where and how much, is that we  
19 really do place and each year we place an increasing  
20 amount of burden on police departments that police  
21 departments don't want to assume. And perhaps maybe  
22 shouldn't even assume.

23 Nowadays, in order to be in a police  
24 department in most places in Connecticut you have to be  
25 some kind of a drug expert, you have to know



1 pharmacology better than probably my doctor does.  
2 You've got to be a psychologist. You've got to be a  
3 social worker. You've got to know more about the  
4 government system than probably the major does in order  
5 to work people through it and to manage your territory.

6           And so we keep passing laws that make police  
7 officers responsible for things that really mental  
8 health professionals should be involved in and social  
9 workers should be involved in and hospitals should be  
10 involved in, and drug treatment intervention  
11 specialists should be involved with.

12           So can we give a police officer the tools  
13 that they need to do an excellent job in every place in  
14 Connecticut given the responsibilities we've given  
15 them? I'm not sure that that can necessarily be done.  
16 But I certainly do think that in many places in  
17 Connecticut we've done much better than we're doing  
18 right now.

19           MR. MEEKINS: I would just like to add to  
20 that. I was a police instructor in a police academy in  
21 Bridgeport. There are mandated police training  
22 criteria. All the large towns, Bridgeport, Hartford  
23 and New Haven, do their own training. There's a state  
24 police academy up in -- where towns send people. Most  
25 of the small towns send officers there to be trained,

1 candidates to be trained.

2           There is a curriculum and we can get you  
3 copies of the curriculum. There are mandated hours in  
4 the course curriculum.

5           Can the curriculum be improved? Definitely.  
6 And it needs to be improved. So I can get you copies  
7 of that.

8           BOARD MEMBER GROSS: thank you.

9           Did you want to comment?

10          MR. PASTORE: Yes. Just quickly. It's the  
11 usual question. It's a problem in the sense that I  
12 like to separate training and education for the reason  
13 you cited. Do we train people to use a gun. But you  
14 also educate them to when to use a gun. There's a  
15 difference.

16          You train animals, for instance. We train  
17 dogs to sniff. We train horses and what have you. The  
18 issue that I'm concerned about is how much of it  
19 becomes a priority or just perfunctory type of  
20 performance. And those things concern me when we just  
21 go through the motions.

22          I had an experience when we started our own  
23 training academy. We had a man come in and talk about  
24 discrimination against women, sexual harassment type of  
25 situations. It became mandated that we'd have to do

1 this. And he got in the session five minutes and was  
2 referring to women as broads.

3           So you've got to question - you have to  
4 question the sincerity or are we just pro forma going  
5 through these type of situations, as indicated. Is it  
6 a priority. Is it important. That's why we have -- in  
7 New Haven, they're termed projects for those type of  
8 issues.

9           And again I get back to the earlier question.  
10 You've got to begin with a workable product. You've  
11 got to begin with people that understand sensitivity  
12 and connect with the neighborhoods. And you can  
13 connect. You can transcend color and ethnicity and  
14 what have you.

15           We had teachings of sign language and our big  
16 symbol was this. We were teaching Spanish and things  
17 of that nature. We're learning to talk and understand  
18 and communicate. Because when you evaluate these  
19 shootings, why does it happen, the violence across  
20 America, there's one significant agreement that  
21 manifests. Cops are afraid. And they have reasons to  
22 be afraid. There's a lot of guns out there.

23           AUDIENCE: And that's a very important  
24 statement.

25           MR. PASTORE: A lot of big guns out there.

1           Jesse Jackson said it. Walking down the  
2 street at night, I turn around and hope it's not a  
3 black guy. Do you get my point? You see six black  
4 guys on the corner. There's stereotype stuff to  
5 conjure up.

6           So understand that our officers are afraid  
7 and the community can make them feel more comfortable  
8 about these issues once we begin engaging them.

9           AUDIENCE: That's why I say we have just as  
10 much fear as you. No different than you.

11          VICE CHAIRMAN WHARTON: Yes. I would like to  
12 ask Mr. Pastore a question. Could you share with us  
13 the importance of the rotation of officers? Wouldn't  
14 that also give them an extra dimension to sensitivity  
15 on the job if they're a little more familiar with  
16 different neighborhoods, the automatic rotation, or is  
17 some element of that that you had spoken of earlier  
18 that was stopped, that that could be a miniature type  
19 prevent service?

20          MR. PASTORE: You know, that's a question  
21 again, that's a great concept. I believe it works best  
22 based on my experience. In New Haven, we  
23 geographically -- and you've visited -- broke down the  
24 city into 10 districts, each one having a community  
25 substation. And each district had not a commander or

1 general or a colonel, they had district managers from  
2 the police department. And they had a management team  
3 comprised of persons indigenous to that neighborhood.

4           And they collectively made decisions on who  
5 would work there, how they would work and continue to  
6 work. And I let that system take its own course. I  
7 like the concept of continuity, the same officer, the  
8 same neighborhood connecting and working. In fact, it  
9 worked very well. And then you see your arrests go  
10 away.

11           You know what it means? Sometimes it takes a  
12 pat on the back to a young person. Come on. Get your  
13 stuff together. Get correct. And the problem goes  
14 away. Sometimes it takes a little more. Sometimes it  
15 takes less. There's no question about that. But there  
16 are levels of intervention meaning all the time that I  
17 care about you. That's what's missing in police work.

18           It's lock up the spic, lock up the nigger or  
19 lock up the chink, whatever it has to be. That's what  
20 we've been unleashed to do. And when you start caring  
21 and you start working this way, how can I help Jimmy  
22 because he's not going to school, I like the same  
23 officer in the same neighborhood connecting all the  
24 time. It works well. With the accountability.

25           See, the management teams I told you about,

1 they are like my middle management. You sent me a cop  
2 there. She's not doing anything. Okay. Let's call  
3 the cop in. You tell it. Officer, the management team  
4 thinks you're not doing anything. They don't need  
5 discipline on that stuff. The officer wants to be  
6 recognized. And when they're doing good work, you  
7 reinforce that constantly. The reward system.

8           Sergeant Ortiz should be burnt out. He  
9 should have medals all over his wall for the kind of  
10 work he's doing. That's what it's about.

11           AUDIENCE: But Commissioners -- you asked a  
12 very important question. The reason why this remedy  
13 was a question in this city unlike New Haven, we had  
14 two components of housing that at the time had a  
15 serious drug war going on. Many of the black officers  
16 were assigned there and the white officers were not.  
17 This is where it has come in at. So it is not clear  
18 why there was an issue regarding the original order.

19           Many of the black officers were put there  
20 when there was a serious drug war going on and the  
21 white officers didn't have to deal with that. The  
22 black officers said, hey, he's an officer like me.  
23 Maybe we should rotate -- because many officers were  
24 caught and many officers were on the verge of becoming  
25 part of the problem. If they're there so long, they

1 become constituents of the drug dealers because they  
2 have adapted to the violence. That's when this may  
3 came along. And a lot of you understand the history of  
4 the original order, they cannot see.

5 Mr. Meekins can share in depth because you  
6 took a lot of lumps even making that suggestion to this  
7 municipality.

8 VICE CHAIRMAN WHARTON: Could you answer it,  
9 Mr. Meekins?

10 MR. MEEKINS: Yes. I didn't want to get into  
11 that depth. And this by no means is remedy order  
12 versus community policing. It's already been said.  
13 It's a buzz word. It is not a philosophy within the  
14 police department. It doesn't exist. We're just  
15 saying it to get money. Drug dollars.

16 With that backdrop and with what Stuart just  
17 brought us up to date, in Bridgeport the city is cut  
18 into four sections, unlike New Haven. Bridgeport is  
19 four sectors. If you're a police-community relations  
20 officer or a community police officer in the blue  
21 sector and you're rotated over to the amber sector, the  
22 same officer with the same qualifications, with the  
23 same training, with knowing how to interact should now  
24 take that training to another level in another  
25 community. And people become lazy. Police officers

1 are not immune.

2           In some communities they get so comfortable  
3 until it's just a tea party time. So, by having  
4 rotation, he's fresh. It helps bring new eyes and  
5 ears. Because communities have different norms. So  
6 there is a definite meaning. The community benefits.  
7 The officer benefits.

8           If everything works well as crime prevention  
9 programs take effect there's less arrests but there  
10 should be more community activity. And in our  
11 community, this is definitely. We have a police  
12 officer I have to name, and his name is synonymous with  
13 what he does. His officer is Love, police officer Love,  
14 L-O-V-E.

15           Now, Officer Love today happens to be a day  
16 we do community feeding, a food bank. He comes. He  
17 works 4:00 to 12:00. He's our community police officer  
18 working the C shift, 4:00 to 12:00 this afternoon.  
19 He's there now, 10:00 this morning, helping offload  
20 food off of a truck. He drives a police car. Parks  
21 it. Puts on his regular clothes, covers up his  
22 uniform. Occasionally he's in uniform. When the  
23 people line up to get the food, he's obviously in  
24 uniform to make sure there's no problems. Stopping  
25 traffic because people are crossing the street.



1           But I'm saying all this to show that when he  
2 came into our community, he did not bring those skills.  
3 He worked in another community. Then when he came into  
4 our community, the skills changed. He adapted,  
5 adopted. The officers who left our community now went  
6 to another community with their skills but that other  
7 community doesn't have those projects. So now those  
8 officers now bring those skills to another community.

9           So each community is upgraded. So I do not  
10 look at it as a downside because people have to be  
11 rotated. And it was interesting to note most black  
12 officers lived in their community. Most Hispanic  
13 officers lived in their communities. They're not  
14 living in New York and commuting to Bridgeport.  
15 They're not living up in Seymour and commuting to  
16 Bridgeport in large numbers. They're living right here  
17 and are close by and have been part of what goes on  
18 because they're here and they have a feel and a sense  
19 of what goes on. And they're willing to put in the  
20 extra time that's required to work closely with the  
21 community.

22           BOARD MEMBER GROSS: Well, I thank you.

23           AUDIENCE: (Off mike.)

24           BOARD MEMBER GROSS: I think, Mr. Macy, our  
25 Chair, wanted to say a few words. And then we are

1 supposed to break.

2           CHAIRMAN MACY: Very few. I just want to  
3 remind you we have what I think is going to be a  
4 session similar to what we had last night, which was  
5 really a great session. It will start at 1:00,  
6 hopefully very promptly. I hope that all of you remain  
7 and bring others if you wish.

8           Just want to mention one word to the police.  
9 Welcome to the world of the general assembly passing  
10 laws. You realize we never have time to teach because  
11 they keep passing laws telling us that we have to  
12 perform roles that parents do. So I hate to see it  
13 happen to you but I'm afraid it's part of the agenda.

14           Take care. And I'll see you after lunch.

15           (Whereupon, the luncheon recess was taken.)

## AFTERNOON SESSION

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1:00 p.m.

CHAIRMAN MACY: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. This is the penultimate session of the panel of our group.

I'm Neil Macy. I'm the Chairperson of the Advisory Committee for the State of Connecticut and U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. And before we begin, I'd like to take this opportunity first of all to have the members of our committee introduce themselves, starting with Marg at the end.

BOARD MEMBER GROSS: Marge Gross, a member of the Committee.

BOARD MEMBER TIRU: Maritza Tiru, member of the Committee from the -- area.

VICE CHAIRMAN WHARTON: Lou Bertha McKenzie Wharton, Vice Chair of the Committee from West Hartford, Connecticut.

MR. CHUN: I'm Ki Taek Chun, Director of the Eastern Regional Office of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

BOARD MEMBER JOHNSON: And I'm Pat Johnson, a member of the Committee and facilitator for this session.

CHAIRMAN MACY: And let me just call your

1 attention to one thing.

2           Those of you who have a program, if you would  
3 look to the back page. For those of you that don't  
4 understand or have never participated in anything  
5 relating to the United States Commission on Civil  
6 Rights, it contains the mission statement of the U.S.  
7 Commission and also a statement regarding the role of  
8 the State Advisory Committee, commonly referred to as  
9 SACs, not sex but SACs.

10           And what we do and have been doing since  
11 yesterday is listening to concerns of citizens from the  
12 Bridgeport area relative to at least two major areas or  
13 three actually major areas of concern. One is media.  
14 Shows you how much attention we get. We had the  
15 managing editor of the so-called Connecticut Post here  
16 yesterday speaking. And I looked in the paper. I  
17 figured there'd at least be a blurb saying he was here.  
18 Not a word. He said he was short of reporters, he told  
19 us when he was here. But as a following point, he  
20 could have I guess written something. But not a word  
21 in the paper relative to the sessions.

22           And I'll tell you, last night this place was  
23 filled with people who expressed their concern.

24           Some people have asked me what we're doing  
25 here in Bridgeport. Our responsibility is we go

1 through the state wherever we feel there are concerns  
2 relative to possible civil rights violations.

3           We were in Waterbury two years ago and a  
4 gentleman got up from the audience. He introduced  
5 himself. He was a minister, he said, from Bridgeport.  
6 And he said, if you think this place has problems, come  
7 down to Bridgeport.

8           Well, two years later we are in Bridgeport  
9 and we have been listening to the concerns. We will  
10 eventually, once we get all the transcripts back and  
11 statements -- and we request that each of the people on  
12 the panel, since they may not be able to complete all  
13 their remarks within the allotted time, give us a  
14 revised and amended report. We will attach it to our  
15 final report so all the words that you want in there  
16 will be in the report.

17           Maybe you'll be revising it as you go along  
18 even. Those things should be sent to the United States  
19 Commission on Civil Rights. The address is on the  
20 program. Not on the program. On the registration  
21 form. It's sent to Dr. Ki-Taek Chun who is our  
22 Regional Director for the United States Commission on  
23 Civil Rights to this area of the country.

24           You have until June -- so you won't feel  
25 panicked, I know what it is to get things out on time.

1 We will not be putting this together until about the  
2 last week in June, so we'll say that you can get us  
3 your revised and amended copies of your remarks by June  
4 23<sup>rd</sup>. That would be great.

5 As far as the people in the audience are  
6 concerned, you also play an important part. After the  
7 presentations are done, you all have a right to make a  
8 statement or ask questions of any member on either of  
9 the two panels. All we ask is that you wait until the  
10 panelists are completed and then raise your questions.

11 We would request that you come up to the  
12 podium, state your name for the record so our Court  
13 Stenographer can get your name, and then give us your  
14 remarks and suggestions or questions.

15 And without taking any more of your time, I'd  
16 like to introduce Patrick Johnson, who will be  
17 moderator for this program.

18 Pat.

19 BOARD MEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you very much,  
20 Neil. And our appreciation to you for coming out this  
21 afternoon and a particular appreciation for the members  
22 of our panel.

23 Just permit me to introduce them, if I may.

24 Reverend Anthony Bennett to my immediate left  
25 with the Interdenominational Alliance; Reverend Doctor

1 James Cook, facilitator with the Black Coalition  
2 Against Police Brutality; David Daniels, President of  
3 the Bridgeport Guardians and the Northeast Regional  
4 National Black Police Association; Lyle Hassan Jones,  
5 facilitator with the Black Coalition Against Police  
6 Brutality; Carolyn B. Nah, President of the Bridgeport  
7 NAACP; and Burt Weinstein, an attorney here in the  
8 community who has personal involvement as a member of  
9 these situations.

10 We heard significant testimony earlier this  
11 morning about the importance of both police and members  
12 of the community treating each other with dignity and  
13 respect for the most effective approach to law  
14 enforcement in our local communities. And this panel  
15 has a great concern about the evident deterioration of  
16 those relationships and their potential impact as it  
17 would relate to destabilizing local communities as  
18 trust in police deteriorates.

19 So all the more reason for the importance of  
20 today's session.

21 We will have two panels here this afternoon.  
22 The second panel is made up of additional public  
23 officials who are on the agenda. And space doesn't  
24 permit everybody to sit around the table here. So we  
25 will proceed at this point with representatives of the

1 community speaking first. And you're welcome to speak  
2 directly from the table. If you're more comfortable  
3 with a podium, by all means please feel free to utilize  
4 the podium.

5           Each person will have 10 minutes to speak.  
6 That will be timed by Dr. Chun, who has a little  
7 mechanical device which is a major nuisance only  
8 because of the way the thing beeps. So we treat each  
9 presenter with a similar time frame.

10           So without any further ado, perhaps we can  
11 begin immediately with Reverend Anthony Bennett.

12           Reverend Bennett.

13           REV. BENNETT: Good afternoon. As stated  
14 earlier, my name is Anthony Bennett. I am pastor of  
15 Mount Airy Baptist Church here in Bridgeport. I'm also  
16 the Chair of the Social Action Committee of the  
17 Interdenominational Ministry of Alliance.

18           Though I prepared a statement here, my  
19 comments will be brief because I want to give the other  
20 panelists adequate time to give greater detail to some  
21 of my introductory remarks.

22           Suffice it to say that I wish to focus my  
23 comments on what I want to refer to as a proactive  
24 approach to creating a better relationship, as you  
25 stated. I'm sure you will hear examples of how that



1 relationship has been deteriorating. I know from the  
2 church community we have a deep sense of regret and  
3 indignation of being called on simply to put out fires  
4 or simply to quiet the natives, as you would say,  
5 whenever cases of police brutality, many of these cases  
6 that you will hear, though we are established in terms  
7 of the community of faith to be negotiators, to be  
8 facilitators.

9           If we plan to rebuild relationships between  
10 police and community, there needs to be an ongoing  
11 dialogue, not simply as a result of the cases of police  
12 brutality that you will hear. But in particular, in  
13 terms of fostering positive preventative kinds of  
14 measures.

15           I think also we want to stand or we want to  
16 share that there's a concern that churches have  
17 partnerships with police-community, not simply to deal  
18 with police-community issues, but other issues that are  
19 going on being the church community, so that police  
20 officers might know the total culture of the religious  
21 community. So that you'll learn about young men, young  
22 women, and how they interact, both in the religious  
23 community as well as amongst themselves. So that  
24 hopefully some cases of police brutality will be  
25 lessened, so that some profiling and stereotyping that

1 we hear from our parishioners will be minimized.

2           So it's not simply that we want you to come  
3 to talk about police brutality. That is definite and  
4 obvious. We want you to come to get to know as well.  
5 And you will discover, even though some young men wear  
6 baggy pants, it does not automatically fit them into  
7 the profile that many police officers have. As well as  
8 young ladies.

9           And we believe if there is a call on the  
10 church community not simply in times of crisis but also  
11 in times of peace, that when these cases arise then  
12 there'll be greater openness on behalf of pastors and  
13 their churches to the police community and not just to  
14 see the police community as the enemy. Because there  
15 are persons who desire to have amenable relationships  
16 with the police community. But we believe that it  
17 won't happen if the only time we gather is to -- and  
18 the only time we're called upon is to quiet the  
19 natives, in quotes, and to deal with particular crisis  
20 situations.

21           BOARD MEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you very much,  
22 Reverend Bennett.

23           Reverend Cook.

24           REV. COOK: I'm Reverend Cook. I'm pastor of  
25 Christ Redeemer Missionary Baptist Church. I'm a

1 recent retired Director of Religions Services, State of  
2 Connecticut, Department of Corrections. And I'm a  
3 facilitator in the Black Coalition and community  
4 coordinator for the NAACP and a member of the IMA,  
5 Interdenominational Ministry Alliance.

6 And one of the things, the concerns that I  
7 have, is taking what my brother has said and carrying  
8 it a little further.

9 There seems to me an ongoing Zeitgeist, a  
10 move, a prevailing mood. And this mood is reflected in  
11 our educational system. And I think that one of the  
12 big mistakes that we do is we try to disengage the  
13 educational system from the corrections or the justice  
14 community. And I would propose to you today that  
15 they're inextricably bound together.

16 If a quality education is not provided and  
17 there isn't an opportunity for one to go forward to see  
18 light at the end of the tunnel, then one is going to do  
19 whatever is necessary for one to survive. And I think  
20 that's what we are seeing played out here quite often.

21 I'd like to sort of preface my remarks with I  
22 do not wish to speak to the whole entire police  
23 department. There are elements in the police  
24 department. There are some good officers, a lot of  
25 good officers. But the bad officers outshine the good

1 officers.

2           And I think it's a terrible thing when in the  
3 community, and I'm speaking for the minority community,  
4 that you fear some elements of the police department  
5 more than you do your drug dealer. I mean, that's sort  
6 of a sad commentary. And that sort of sets things out  
7 there. I.e., examples.

8           We had a young lady and she just filed and  
9 she did follow through and right here in front of the  
10 Sheehan Center there was an incident. An officer comes  
11 up. One officer controls himself. Another officer  
12 doesn't. Kicks, beats the person. Cusses the person  
13 out. Looks at her. Asks her what are you looking at,  
14 and cusses her out and slams the person into the car.  
15 And then, after the person is in the car, kicks the  
16 person. Says that's what I think about you. And spit  
17 on and so forth.

18           And -- it's Mrs. Rollins. And she's filed  
19 already. She's followed through and she has filed this  
20 complaint.

21           It's this type of thing. It's when you et  
22 reports from your -- praise God, you're here? Praise  
23 God. Bless your heart.

24           Okay. It's also when you have incidents such  
25 as an operation that goes down in PT Barnum, which my

1 brother will elaborate on a little bit further. When  
2 you come in with helicopters like a military invasion  
3 with helicopters, people coming around all dressed up  
4 with automatic rifles throwing people on the ground and  
5 just say tell me something. This says a lot. And this  
6 does not talk about deteriorate. There is no  
7 relationship between. This destroys a relationship  
8 between community policing and the community itself.  
9 And I'm here today as an advocate not only for those  
10 who brutalize but for restoration and reconciliation.  
11 And that's what it should be about.

12           As this great city gets ready to go forward,  
13 there needs to be a collaboration between the religious  
14 community and not only minority religious communities  
15 but religious communities and what they have to bring  
16 to the table and the problems of the city of  
17 Bridgeport. Right now there's a bifurcation. It's  
18 almost as if -- and when I talk about that Zeitgeist,  
19 that mood, it's almost like we're above you people. We  
20 don't have to deal with you people. .

21           And as he looked over to Mrs.. Rollins and  
22 cussed Ms. Rollins out, that tells me that somewhere  
23 along the line there has to be someone in authority  
24 that sort of carries, if they're not saying overtly but  
25 with the innuendo that this type of behavior is okay

1 and we can condone this. I will get away with it.

2 I'll be able to make it.

3 And I'm hoping that there will be some  
4 discourse here that will come together for that  
5 reconciliation and hopefully restoration of our city to  
6 its great position of preeminence that it once held.

7 BOARD MEMBER JOHNSON: Reverend Cook, thank  
8 you very much.

9 David Daniels, President of the Bridgeport --  
10 I'm sorry. Lyle Hassan Jones is next on the agenda. I  
11 apologize. With the Black Coalition Against Police  
12 Brutality.

13 MR. JONES: I can't sit here with the fire in  
14 my soul. I need the podium.

15 My name is Lyle Hassan Jones. I'm Assistant  
16 Imam from Mosque GWCDC in Bridgeport. I'm also in  
17 relations with Dr. Cook, the Black Coalition Against  
18 Police Brutality and also I'm the political action  
19 director of the NAACP.

20 And I would just like to just state some  
21 remarks and go over a trend that we see that's been  
22 happening throughout the nation, and then just bring it  
23 home so that you can see exactly that people of color  
24 are just being walked over and being abused, not only  
25 in Bridgeport, but throughout this nation. Because

1 remember in the early hours of March 30, 1991, a police  
2 chase in Los Angeles ended in an incident that would  
3 become synonymous with police brutality, the beating of  
4 a young man.

5           See, we can't forget Rodney King. That was  
6 televised throughout this nation. Who was struck  
7 repeatedly and beaten by three officers while a group  
8 of other officers, white officers, all watched the  
9 brutal beating of this man. This was 1991.

10           And the media coverage of this was so  
11 extensive. It was so extensive that they came up and  
12 they found out that the police abuse was not evenly  
13 distributed throughout American society but  
14 disproportionately victimized people of color.

15           When you show the statistics you saw people  
16 of color were being victimized by this brutality.

17           And here we are nine years later, the year  
18 2000. And in December 1996 two men in two weeks died  
19 in handcuffs at the hands of the Palm Beach County  
20 Sheriff's deputies of Florida. Lindey Starks, 48, died  
21 of asphyxia in a cloud of pepper spray while handcuffed  
22 behind his back in a prone position. Several days  
23 later, another young man, Kevin Prouxma, 27, died after  
24 being restrained by a deputy. In the custody of police  
25 officers these persons were killed with handcuffs on.

1           In January 1997, Cote Desill, 34, was shot  
2 and killed in Rhode Island by a police officer during a  
3 low speed chase. Not a high speed chase, a low speed  
4 chase. He was unarmed but they said that they thought  
5 he had stole a care.

6           In February - let me bring it home, and we'll  
7 conclude. In February, to show you this stuff is just  
8 going on over the nation. I mean, this mindset, this  
9 white supremacy mindset of police officers. Because if  
10 you look at the statistics and why I say that, it is  
11 white officers who are killing people of color. Black  
12 officers have not been charged with these crimes.

13           Look at the statistics. In February 1997,  
14 James Wilson, 37 year old black man, unarmed motorist,  
15 was kicked and punched by three Hartford police  
16 officers after a brie chase which ended in front of the  
17 Bloomfield Police Department. The beating is so severe  
18 that a group of Bloomfield police officers had to come  
19 out and stop them from beating him in front of the  
20 police station. And the chief stated that the young  
21 man didn't resist. He was just struck.

22           When they tried to pull him over, he wasn't  
23 running from them. He was running to the police  
24 station to try to get help. He thought if he can get  
25 to the police station and jump out of his car, he



1 wouldn't be assaulted.

2           Now had he not been in front of the police  
3 station and they had stopped him where they wanted to  
4 stop him, that man would be dead today because these  
5 vicious dogs continued to beat him in the presence of  
6 police officers and they had to intervene. I don't  
7 know the results of that.

8           Now we come right here to Bridgeport,  
9 Connecticut. A young man on New Year's Eve, 1/31/97,  
10 leaving his girlfriend's house on the south end of  
11 Bridgeport going to his mother's house and a police  
12 officer asks him what he's doing. Because he's a  
13 person of color, he can't walk in the street at 12:00  
14 at night. But I guess he said who the hell are you to  
15 ask me what am I doing. Man, I'm not breaking the law.  
16 I'm going home.

17           The police challenges him and our young  
18 people -- you know they're aggressive. They listen to  
19 aggressive music. He felt he was right. He said  
20 something back. He called for backup.

21           Seven police officers on the scene, one young  
22 Hispanic man. Officer Christopher Lemay jumps in front  
23 of this guy with his gun drawn to provoke the killing.  
24 Jumps in front of him. And to use deadly force, you  
25 should use every option you can not to kill nobody.

1 Shot the boy five times in the chest and killed him.

2           Seven police officers. One youth. The seven  
3 other officers remained silent on it because of fear of  
4 retaliation. I'm not talking about it. And off the  
5 record they told me it was wrong. They could have  
6 handled it different.

7           He got in front of him so he could kill him.  
8 And what did they do? They made him a sergeant. The  
9 same sergeant I've got complaints on. And in 900 pages  
10 of complaints, everywhere they assigned him in the  
11 black community, he wreaked havoc. He choked women,  
12 beat women, kicked women. But our people are so  
13 irresponsible sometimes on filing even complaints, so  
14 that everything I got -- there's closure. Nobody came  
15 in.

16           But I'm saying this. We need to look at  
17 officers when people are complaining all over the city  
18 who commit these types of atrocities on our people.  
19 And then we want you to investigate because we threw it  
20 out before that we heard there was a K5 group in the  
21 police department who targeted people of color. They  
22 tried to shut it off but it's a fact that that's heard.  
23 And that's because you're bringing these white officers  
24 from Cheshire, Connecticut, the Valley, live in the  
25 surrounding areas who have no connection with what

1 we're doing here and don't give a damn. Excuse my  
2 expression. And are beating, maiming and killing our  
3 people.

4           They just beat a boy the other day. I'm  
5 investigating that. We've got it on videotape and the  
6 cops are scared to death. They beat a boy in Marima  
7 Village. Four of them jumped out. He was selling  
8 drugs. He should have been arrested but he shouldn't  
9 have been beaten. And they beat this kid to a pulp.  
10 And then when they saw the boy with the camera, they  
11 said, we've got to subpoena that camera. They wanted  
12 to take the tape. They are right now I bet you shaking  
13 in their boots because they don't know what's on that  
14 tape.

15           We're waiting to go to see Internal Affairs,  
16 to bring this stuff to them. And this stuff is going  
17 throughout here.

18           You have it in Hartford with Aquam Salmon, a  
19 14 year old boy. Four boys in Hartford, right?  
20 They're going out. No. They wasn't having a play day.  
21 They went out and was committing a crime. They were  
22 trying to rob, they said, a woman of the street. But  
23 Aquam Salmon was still sitting in the car while the  
24 others were trying to rob the woman of the street and  
25 then the police pulled up at the time and people

1 started running.

2 He jumps out the car and was past the police.  
3 Fourteen year old kid runs past the police, gets shot  
4 in the back and you say that it's justified. Unarmed  
5 black people getting killed by white officers and  
6 usually have the nerve to say that it's justified. How  
7 the hell can you justify killing a kid, shooting in the  
8 back? Because I thought he was trying to hurt me.

9 I mean, this mindset, people know that it's  
10 wrong but because it's people who are impoverished who  
11 don't have the money, who don't have the control, who  
12 ain't connected to, don't give a damn. You treat us  
13 like cockroaches.

14 The chief attorney is offering everybody else  
15 because it just don't make no sense how we're being  
16 slaughtered. And we don't know what it's going to  
17 take. You have declared war on black people, on people  
18 of color. And the people don't know it. You need to  
19 get on the bullhorns and your microphones and say there  
20 is war, yelling war. And we're the only ones dying.

21 The only thing that's going to happen if we  
22 don't get this thing together, God forbid, people are  
23 going to start dropping of other colors because I'm  
24 talking to people. That's my job. And I'm trying to  
25 control young people. And if they've got to die for

1 nothing, you might as well die for something. We  
2 aren't getting any justice.

3 Aquam Salmon was murdered. Malique Jones was  
4 murdered. This is a young boy -- no, he was wrong, but  
5 he was murdered. How can a cop's life be in danger if  
6 he's backing up a car and he's got the ability to bust  
7 out a window and shoot in the car. They're supposed to  
8 be limits to excessive force, especially deadly force.

9 Then you put this little cartoon stuff on us  
10 and we sit back and, you know, yes, the natives.  
11 They're going to raise hell for it and they'll shout  
12 and they'll march and they've been doing it for 75  
13 years. And then the next thing you know you shoot and  
14 kill somebody.

15 Like Reverend Cook said, they go out to PT  
16 Barnum with helicopters, assault rifles, putting guns  
17 to kids heads. What do you know about what's going on  
18 out here? Terrorizing the people. Using what I call  
19 the Tarzan syndrome. A white man makes a call and  
20 bring in all his army and terrorize the black community  
21 like Tarzan terrorized the natives. He calls in the  
22 animals and everything he is calling and everybody's  
23 terrorized and under siege.

24 And this is what's happening. And I'm  
25 getting complaints after complaint, being a political

1 action director, of all these assaults. And we try to  
2 follow through and nothing's being done.

3 And in closing, I'll say this. We know that  
4 if you can shoot a black man 41 times standing in the  
5 vestibule of his own home, minding his own business,  
6 and can't find a way to convict cops for that, then  
7 shooting somebody one time don't mean anything. And  
8 the reason why this is happening, because there's  
9 certain people with this white supremacy mind, think  
10 that their life is much more sacred than people of  
11 color. Because if you didn't think it was much more  
12 safe, you wouldn't be doing what you are doing and you  
13 wouldn't be upholding these decisions and not even  
14 prosecuting the police officers.

15 The chief attorney's office don't even charge  
16 them with a crime. You didn't do it. They don't even  
17 go through a court of law and let a jury decide whether  
18 they was wrong or not. They don't even go to court.

19 I mean, I don't care if they're a mass  
20 murdered. A young boy got killed, Hector Colon, in  
21 Bridgeport. They said that he was a Latin king. They  
22 said he was a murderer. They said he was a drug  
23 dealer.

24 We know the federal authorities will trump up  
25 charges, put anything on anybody, to justify their

1 behavior. The bottom line was I don't know what it  
2 was, but I do know this. I know he was unarmed and I  
3 know he was shot in the back and killed by a federal  
4 officer. And what you did? He tossed it out the  
5 window.

6 BOARD MEMBER JOHNSON: Mr. Jones, I have to  
7 ask you to summarize.

8 MR. JONES: End of my summary. That's  
9 basically it. What I'm saying is that I'm pissed off  
10 because it is happening to people of color. It's  
11 happening to our people. And we're dying and it's not  
12 getting any better. And I think that we're going to  
13 have to review this whole situation of the police,  
14 especially here in Bridgeport, that are coming through  
15 here from surrounding areas, that don't have a sense of  
16 our community and don't care. This community policing  
17 they have now in Bridgeport is a joke. The police  
18 don't know the community. They come in and wreak havoc  
19 in the community.

20 So we need to get a better relationship. And  
21 I hope when we come out of this -- I didn't mean to be  
22 so fiery. Excuse that. You know. So passionate. But  
23 it pains me to see this happening. But I hope that we  
24 can remedy some of this.

25 Thank you.

1 BOARD MEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

2 If you've not had an opportunity to complete  
3 your presentation, you are welcome to submit the  
4 complete document to us. And anybody else who -- this  
5 applies to any of our speakers. You have until June  
6 23<sup>rd</sup>, I guess, to get the materials to us.

7 Let me introduce at this point David Daniels,  
8 who's President of the Bridgeport Guardians and the  
9 Northeast Regional National Black Police Association.

10 Mr. Daniels.

11 MR. DANIELS: Good afternoon. As stated, my  
12 name is Dave Daniels. I'm the President of the  
13 Bridgeport Guardians. I'm also the Regional President  
14 of the National Black Police Association.

15 My position on all this is going to be unique  
16 because I'm the only person on the panel that can sit  
17 on both sides. I can sit on the community's side  
18 because my work in the community has been going on long  
19 before I became a police officer. It goes back to the  
20 days when I was a youth growing up in the housing  
21 project, PT Barnum, where Mr. Jones is also from.

22 I've been a police officer for the past 12  
23 years; a sergeant for the past two years.

24 I never know what I'm going to say until I  
25 actually say it. I don't speak from text and I do a



1 modicum of public speaking.

2 I will say this up front right away. No  
3 matter where I travel across this country, I always  
4 have to go on after somebody who's kind of fiery. So  
5 thanks a lot for keeping that intact. But I can  
6 understand that passion. Because one of the things  
7 that I am, and I'll never be able to change it -- I've  
8 been comfortable with since day one the 44 years I've  
9 been on this planet -- is that I'm a black man.

10 What makes me unique is I'm a black man  
11 that's a police officer.

12 I've been a police officer 12 years. When I  
13 was a rookie police officer I witnessed an incident of  
14 police brutality that changed my career and my life  
15 forever. I saw a white police officer beat up two  
16 suspects that were handcuffed and I reported him. He  
17 had to go to jail. And my life changed tremendously.

18 I was ostracized by my department. Had only  
19 been on the job less than six months. I was taken out  
20 of my assignment in patrol and put in community  
21 services division where I stayed for eight years until  
22 I became a sergeant. I've been through more shit than  
23 you could ever imagine. I didn't come here to talk  
24 about that. I'm just trying to give you a little  
25 background.

1           When people ask me about being a police  
2 officer, I tell them I'm blessed and I tell them I love  
3 what I do. And they ask me why, when they know the  
4 history of my service.

5           I was lucky to have that indoctrination as a  
6 rookie. Because what happens with police officers is  
7 you go on this job and you want to be excepted. I had  
8 been a basketball player, a DJ. I never had anybody  
9 hate me before I came on this job and I never had  
10 anybody hate me until that incident happened. But it  
11 opened my eyes. Because when you want to be accepted,  
12 you see the world through other people's eyes and you  
13 should never lose your own perspective, having grown up  
14 in the housing projects. It's a unique perspective  
15 that you should keep.

16           I've seen police officers come to the  
17 projects and beat people and mistreat people. That was  
18 one of the reasons I took the job so that I could  
19 counter that. Because I believe that in order for some  
20 people to make changes, you have to do it from the  
21 inside. And if this is going to be a paradigm shift, I  
22 think the impetus is going to be by people of color who  
23 take this job and try to make it what it should be.

24           I'm fortunate in the sense I've had good role  
25 models. There's a man in this building somewhere, I

1 don't know where he is. His name is Ted Meekins. When  
2 I was in high school, Mr. Meekins had just started the  
3 Bridgeport Guardians.

4           The Bridgeport Guardians was started by 11  
5 police officers, black; 14 total. The other officers  
6 came from towns that only had one black cop. At that  
7 time I was in a college prep program called Upward  
8 Bound and he came and he told us about these lawsuits  
9 that they were instituting to bolster minority  
10 representation in the city.

11           As I stand here in the new millennium, I'm  
12 proud to be able to tell you that as a product of those  
13 lawsuits our department is 34 percent minority and it  
14 reflects the diversity of the city. Now, that's some  
15 good and some bad. The bulk of that representation is  
16 in patrol division and it should be -- we should be  
17 proliferating that up the ranks. I'm doing what I can  
18 as the Bridgeport Guardians president and a  
19 representative of the National Black Police Association  
20 to make sure that those numbers go higher.

21           What I believe about policing is that it's  
22 going to be a partnership in the new millennium. I  
23 believe that we have to work together to eradicate  
24 crime. I think that the police department and the  
25 communities' impact and responsibility are equal.

1           Gone are the days when we can solve all the  
2 problems in the community. I agree with Lyle on  
3 several points. I do believe that our community  
4 policing program is a joke. I think that it was a  
5 farce that was started by a former chief just to get  
6 funds. And after the funds were here, I don't know  
7 where the program went, but when I became a sergeant in  
8 patrol I found that it was a farce. And I'm going to  
9 work with our new chief. Hopefully that will be Hector  
10 Torres, so that we can put it where it should be.  
11 Because I know that he has some ideas and he was part  
12 and parcel in instituting it here in Bridgeport.

13           And I believe, given the opportunity, he'll  
14 make the changes that are needed. So I hope that the  
15 mayor is listening.

16           Again, what Lyle said. My perspective is  
17 unique because I'm a black man. I'm only a cop while  
18 I've got the uniform on. When I don't have the uniform  
19 home and have to venture around Connecticut -- and I  
20 said I do a modicum of traveling across this country as  
21 a representative for the National Black Police  
22 Association. I don't wear my badge on my head so the  
23 only people that know I'm a police officer are the  
24 people that have direct contact with me. And I've been  
25 subject to what it's like to be a black man in other

1 parts of the country. It's not a good thing.

2           Across this country, I don't if it's a  
3 conspiracy or not. I guess somebody can always come up  
4 with a theory to support such. But there's no accident  
5 that we make up 12 percent of the population in this  
6 country but our young people make up 80 percent of the  
7 people that are in prison. That's my design. That's  
8 by institutional racism that we have to work together  
9 to eradicate.

10           I think that there's no accident that most of  
11 the people that are abused and are losing their lives  
12 in this country at the hands of police are minority. I  
13 think there is a lack of respect on the part of some  
14 white officers. Here in Bridgeport, what I'd like to  
15 see is I'd like to see us go back to the residency  
16 rule.

17           I was born here. I was raised here. I know  
18 every street. I know most all the people. That gives  
19 you some inherent checks and balances. I can't go out  
20 there and be abusive because everybody knows me. And I  
21 have a stake in this community because this is where I  
22 was born and raised.

23           If I'm successful enough to live here -- my  
24 mother still lives here. I have children that are  
25 buried here. So this is my home. And no matter where

1 I go, it will always be my home. Because it's my home,  
2 I have a direct responsibility in making the quality of  
3 this life better. So I think that we need to go back  
4 to doing things like that.

5 We have cops in this job from Nebraska. They  
6 can't possibly know what goes on in Bridgeport. And to  
7 take that to another level, why should somebody from  
8 Bridgeport, where the unemployment opportunities are  
9 high, have to compete with somebody from Nebraska. It  
10 just doesn't make any sense.

11 I think that the people that are born here  
12 have a direct link to this place and they're  
13 stakeholders in the quality of life here because it not  
14 only impacts on them but it impacts on their families.

15 You're going to do a better job of policing  
16 when your daughters and sons are going to schools here,  
17 when your daughters and sons are using the parks here,  
18 when your daughters and sons are part and parcel of  
19 everything that goes on here.

20 I don't know how much time I have left, but  
21 in doing such things, about four years ago I created a  
22 basketball camp. It's unique in the sense that I don't  
23 think there's a program like it anywhere in the  
24 country. It's called Officer Friendly's Drug Free  
25 Basketball Camp. I created it four years ago with some

1 funding from the Justice Department. As a matter of  
2 fact, attorney Robinson has been a speaker at my camp.

3 But I give the kids breakfast, lunch,  
4 transportation to and from camp. I take them to the  
5 Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Mass. We have  
6 award ceremonies, all-star games, and a family picnic  
7 to feed everybody's family that comes to the camp. All  
8 of this is done for free.

9 I take 200 kids a summer. It's the first kids  
10 that come. First come; first serve basis. I give them  
11 the best camp that money could buy that nobody has to  
12 pay for. It's staffed by off duty police officers, not  
13 only from Bridgeport. I've had cops fly in from  
14 Chicago just to spend a day. I've had the DA fly in a  
15 helicopter to show kids what they do. I met Casey  
16 Jones, who's a Boston Celtic and a Hall of Fame legend,  
17 NBA basketball player, come and spend a day at my camp.

18 These are just things that I'm doing on a  
19 personal level to shift that paradigm of policing  
20 because in the new millennium, things have to be  
21 different. What I've tried to do is role model  
22 behavior for police officers that are already on this  
23 job so they can change the way they advocate and the  
24 way they do policing. And everything I do encourages  
25 young people, blacks and minorities, to grow up and

1 want to be police officers. Because the music, the  
2 media, and everything they fear counters that.

3 I haven't met a black kid or a Puerto Rican  
4 kid yet that wants to grow up and be a police officer.  
5 But if I'm in the neighborhoods enough and I'm role  
6 modeling positive behavior and they see that you can  
7 make a difference from the inside, maybe it ought to be  
8 done.

9 Thank you for my opinions.

10 BOARD MEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you very much,  
11 Mr. Daniels.

12 The next presenter is Carolyn Nah, President  
13 of the Bridgeport NAACP.

14 MS. NAH: Thank you.

15 I don't know whether I should stand or sit.  
16 But whether I stand or sit, you can hear me because I  
17 have one of those voices that project.

18 As I was sitting here listening to the  
19 various speakers and those before me, I reflected back  
20 about my childhood.

21 I grew up in a very small town in Georgia  
22 where racism was prevalent. Blacks lived on one side  
23 of the tracks and the whites lived on the other side.  
24 And I can remember when large numbers of African-  
25 Americans left the South coming to the North looking



1 for the promised land, because they were tired of the  
2 lynchings, the burnings, the cross burnings in front of  
3 their homes. If you spoke out, you got killed the next  
4 day.

5           And I cannot believe that I'm sitting here in  
6 the year 2000 hearing these same stories. Hearing the  
7 same stories that my grandmothers told. Hearing the  
8 same stories that people left the South in fear of  
9 being lynched because your kid did not want to go to  
10 the cotton field that day. And just to sit here in the  
11 year 2000 and hear this is a pity. It is really a  
12 pity.

13           There is a book, The Exodus, a great exodus  
14 from the fields to the factories in the North. Because  
15 African-Americans felt if they left the lynchings of  
16 the South, they left the cross burnings, that they  
17 would never have to see that again. And I am a witness  
18 that I have witnesses everything that my grandmother  
19 has told me right here in the city of Bridgeport.  
20 Which brings me to the Bridgeport Police Department.

21           Dr. Cook did say briefly that there is a  
22 direct link between the educational system and the  
23 criminal justice system, and that is a known fact. If  
24 your kids are not in school and they're walking the  
25 streets, they're going to get picked up either by a

1 truant officer or a drug dealer. Either one. It's by  
2 design.

3           Now they are kids. They should be in school.  
4 And I am one that is for education because my mother  
5 told me that once you get it in your head, unless  
6 you're mentally retarded, nothing is going to take it  
7 out of there. And she drilled that in us, that  
8 education was really a key to where we needed to get to  
9 from point A to point B.

10           And to see the one person that's missing from  
11 this panel is the head of the adult probation  
12 department, which is one of the most racist human  
13 beings in this city. And you all can thing nail me  
14 later on for a \$2 million lawsuit. But this person is  
15 allowed to write all the PSR reports for the judges,  
16 the pre-sentence investigation reports.

17           Now you get a violation of probation and they  
18 give you right back to the man that just violated you  
19 and he just put you right back in jail. I mean,  
20 there's something wrong with that.

21           The Bridgeport Police Department. I'm not  
22 asking, as somebody else said here, to indict the  
23 entire Bridgeport Police Department because know there  
24 are nice credible men and women that work for the  
25 Bridgeport Police Department. But the ones that are

1 out here on the streets beating up people, making up  
2 false reports, writing false reports, it's a same. And  
3 most of them are white males.

4           When the judge has the file of the defendant  
5 in front of him, the only thing he has to look at is  
6 the police report. And the way that police report is  
7 written is very biased. And it determines whether your  
8 children is going to get five years or 50 years. And  
9 that's awful. A lot of the stuff is made up. We have  
10 witnesses that know that it's made up but they're  
11 afraid of the repercussions.

12           And I'm glad to see attorney Burt Weinstein  
13 sitting here. A few years ago we had an incident  
14 regarding the Trumbull Police Department. Trumbull  
15 Gardens. Burt Weinstein and I spent a half Saturday  
16 afternoon up there looking for witnesses. They had  
17 many witnesses. When we gave them the paper to sign,  
18 they said, oh, no, I'm not putting my signature on that  
19 paper because my child will get arrested or I will get  
20 arrested.

21           That's the same kind of fear that people had  
22 in Georgia in 1935 and 1945. Mississippi, Louisiana,  
23 and Missouri. If you re-read history, you would think  
24 that it is being replayed right here in the city of  
25 Bridgeport.

1           We could not get one person to sign anything.  
2   But they said I saw the whole thing. I know what's  
3   happening.

4           When the helicopters came to Trumbull Gardens  
5   a few months ago, Dr. Cook and Jones had to drag a  
6   young man out of the NAACP meeting because he came  
7   there with so much -- he was very angry. He said, Mrs.  
8   Nah, they had machine guns to little children's heads.  
9   And he was very upset because he thought that the NAACP  
10   had the answer.

11           He said, everybody had a dot on their  
12   forehead, a red dot. And wherever that red dot is  
13   that's where the bullet would go. And these are  
14   children, Mrs. Nah.

15           We tried to calm him down because Captain  
16   Sturdivant was there, and he was outraged. Because he  
17   said, my son, 16 years old, substance abuser, is  
18   sitting in Walker on a \$2 million bond. You have young  
19   people that are sitting there. It was in their raid.  
20   And many of them were substance abusers. They're  
21   sitting today on half million dollars and \$2 million  
22   bond. That's unjust. That is not right. There's  
23   something wrong with that. There's something wrong  
24   that we would allow helicopters, people to come into  
25   the community with military equipment just as we're in

1 a war. We really are at war.

2           There is no such drugs in any community that  
3 can justify helicopters and machine guns. I can  
4 remember when Janet Reno ordered them and the U.S.  
5 Marshals to go to Elian Gonzales. And that picture was  
6 on the front page of every newspaper in this world and  
7 everybody was talking about it. Oh, I cannot believe  
8 that America is that violent. We see this every day.

9           You saw it on national television on Elian  
10 Gonzales, but the people that lived in PG and Trumbull  
11 Gardens did every single day. Everybody gets a dot to  
12 their foreheads. Helicopters are in the communities,  
13 shaking people's dishes off the wall. And that's  
14 outrageously ridiculous.

15           For what? And the most talked about case in  
16 the city of Bridgeport right now, the Pillar case. And  
17 if the alleged defendant is proved to be guilty then it  
18 is behavior that he learned from the powers that be.  
19 Because if you speak out for what you thought,  
20 somebody's coming after you. Somebody's coming after  
21 you whether you like it or not, whether he's guilty or  
22 innocent. I don't know. I'm not the judge or the  
23 jury. But I know one thing. If -- and we read the  
24 story every day, re-read it. He is an alleged that  
25 hired somebody. And for those of us that speak out

1 today, we get the repercussion.

2 I've had my car burned and it wasn't even my  
3 car. I have a very good white friend who happened to  
4 have some money. He loaned me his Mercedes. I'm  
5 riding around town in it for two weeks. Parked it in  
6 my driveway. Somebody came down and threw a can of --  
7 broke the window and threw a can of gasoline and burned  
8 it to the ground.

9 Luckily the fire department responded. Oh,  
10 my husband, a poor innocent man from Africa, very laid  
11 back human being. He'd be walking and you wouldn't  
12 even know that he was here. Laid off from his job  
13 after 19 years. The only person to get laid off.  
14 Perfect attendance. I used to try to frighten him into  
15 getting on the highway. All the state troopers say if  
16 you go up there they're going to arrest anybody that  
17 goes out there today.

18 He said, my job is my mother and my father in  
19 this country.

20 Anybody that speaks out, somebody comes after  
21 them, whether it's your child, your job or whatever it  
22 is. People will not speak out.

23 We had the FBI to come into the NAACP meeting  
24 to take statements regarding the Trumbull Police. They  
25 said, I'm not signing that. I'm not having people

1 coming after my kids. I'm not having people come after  
2 me.

3 So we talk about Russell Pillar every day.  
4 And if he is guilty, he learned that from people that  
5 are in power. How many of us have lost our jobs  
6 because we spoke out. How many of our children have  
7 been -- my son's a substance abuser. Got arrested.  
8 \$100,000 bond. Every time I turn around somebody's  
9 threatening to take this away from me.

10 Luckily, luckily for me I came from a history  
11 and a heritage of people with strong genetic background  
12 or I would be in an insane asylum. Oh, that wasn't the  
13 first car that they burned. The police department did  
14 the investigation. I parked my car at -- for two  
15 hours. I got busy and a tow truck driver destroyed it.  
16 And I have all the evidence. I never filed one  
17 complaint.

18 And I called the past president of this --  
19 oh, you've got to be quiet. They're after you. Oh,  
20 they're after me. They're after us. How many times to  
21 we get people to come to NAACP meetings saying they're  
22 after me. They're after my children. They're labeling  
23 us and stuff.

24 So why are we so interested in Russell  
25 Pillar's case? Oh, he's the most notorious criminal in

1 this century because he supposedly hired his brother to  
2 kill somebody. I mean, people in power are hiring  
3 people to come after simple innocent people like  
4 myself. People who speak out for what they feel is  
5 right.

6 I thought that when we left the South this  
7 would not happen. I guarantee you, we get the  
8 repercussion. How many of us know that when Alvin Penn  
9 was first newly elected senator, no one saw Alvin  
10 unless they saw the mayor. Alvin didn't go anywhere  
11 near the black community nor any black folks. All of a  
12 sudden, Alvin became interested in the prison transfer  
13 situation. Oh, the Connecticut Post is being sued.  
14 Carolyn Nah is being sued. Alvin Penn is being --  
15 Alvin received more telephone calls. You've got to  
16 take your hand out of that situation.

17 If there were not so many false arrests then  
18 there would be room in the Connecticut Prison for those  
19 that need to be serving time. Substance abusers. I  
20 have copies of all my reports. Substance abusers  
21 belong in a drug program. Mentally ill belong in a  
22 insane asylum or wherever they go. Mentally ill, they  
23 don't belong in jail. But you're running out of space.  
24 You've got false reports. The police know how to write  
25 the reports.



1 I have seen judges send to the police to have  
2 them rewrite, to put in a word that they know will get  
3 those kids 40 years in prison. It's a shame.

4 Million dollar bonds for substance abusers.  
5 Lying to get a conviction. Over-zealous prosecutors.  
6 Using military equipment on the African-American  
7 community. And it's not right. It's not right. A lot  
8 of people don't like it but that's why a lot of people  
9 left the South and came to this so-called integrated  
10 North, to get away from that. And here we are back to  
11 the cross burnings again.

12 Ella Anderson told me, the past president of  
13 the NAACP. She told me, I had a crosses burning in  
14 front of my house when I was in your position. Who do  
15 you think you are that you're going to be any  
16 different. I didn't know that because I wasn't born  
17 and raised in Bridgeport. Ms. Anderson told me she had  
18 crosses burned on her grass.

19 Everything that means something to you  
20 people, and everything after you. And so you need to  
21 know that.

22 And I will summarize it by saying again I  
23 learned as a child there's 99 days for the thief and  
24 one for the master. And one day we will get our day.  
25 Because justice will be served. It will be. As you

1 are judges and those who have power to do things to us,  
2 there's also -- when your day comes, have you ever been  
3 to the bedside of a dying fool. Ever been to the  
4 bedside of somebody dying that was dishonorable. It  
5 used to be a time you had to be honorable to get a job  
6 to serve in certain positions. I worked 25 years for  
7 the federal government and I was checked out. And I  
8 had to prove and live up to the fact that I was a  
9 federal employee. But now people sitting in these  
10 positions, they have no honor.

11           What happened to that, being honorable, being  
12 an American. This is the greatest country in the  
13 world. People will kill to get to America.

14           We talk about Khadaffi and all these guys;  
15 Saddam Hussein and Noriega. All of them. Castro.  
16 We're not any different.

17           And I conclude by saying if Mr. Pillar is  
18 convicted for the crime that he's alleged to have  
19 committed, then he learned it from those that are in  
20 power because somebody will send somebody after you if  
21 you speak out.

22           Thank you very much.

23           BOARD MEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you.

24           MS. NAH: I do have copies.

25           BOARD MEMBER JOHNSON: Appreciate that. Thank

1 you.

2 Reverend Cook?

3 REV. COOK: Yes. One of the things that I  
4 would like to be clear to be handled here, that I'm  
5 speaking for myself. I want peaceful communities. I  
6 want the police presence in the community. But there  
7 has to be some type of correlation between the policing  
8 effort and the force that is exerted.

9 I wouldn't want anyone to leave and say I go  
10 out supporting drug dealers. No, I don't. But being -  
11 - and by the way, I have to say this because it burns  
12 inside of me. You see, being a drug dealer does not  
13 automatically warrant a death sentence to be executed  
14 by the police officer coming to arrest you.

15 Just like the case in New York City. Well,  
16 they shot the Hispanic druggie because he had on two  
17 pair of pants and they were baggy and he had a  
18 reputation of being a drug dealer in the past. Whether  
19 he was or was not becomes a moot point. The point was  
20 did he deserve to die and to be killed and executed by  
21 the arresting officer. That's the point that I'm  
22 making right now.

23 Do we want to have the victimization in our  
24 community? Do we want to have it checked? Yes, we do.  
25 I do, at least. But I don't believe that you have to

1 go in, trump up charges. I believe that right now we  
2 have enough technology that if we want to find  
3 anything, we can find out anything we want to find out  
4 without having to go out and beat up folks, intimidate  
5 folks and what have you.

6           The intimidation is a factor of racism. And  
7 that's really what I'm hearing. The studies that come  
8 to us, really the officers that perpetrate that really  
9 want people to be afraid of them. And I want you to  
10 know something and I want to serve notice now. Yes,  
11 Carolyn, there's a price to pay and I believe I'm in  
12 that crucible right now. But that's all right. It  
13 don't really matter. Because there's a bigger concern.  
14 And the bigger concern is the black community.

15           And what I'm looking for right now, I'm  
16 looking that we're going to have to stand up because  
17 I'll tell you what. The new generation that's coming  
18 on, they're beginning to say right now -- there are  
19 young folk that are 15, 16 years old buying life  
20 insurance in case they get killed. They understand  
21 there is no other way. So I will do whatever it is  
22 that I have to do.

23           The education is not there. The opportunity  
24 is not there. And every message that gets sent back --  
25 I talked about Zeitgeist. It's a word that means mood,

1 a prevailing mood.

2 BOARD MEMBER JOHNSON: Reverend, I hate to  
3 interrupt but we do have another speaker on the panel  
4 who hasn't had an opportunity to talk yet.

5 REV. COOK: Oh, I'm sorry.

6 BOARD MEMBER JOHNSON: So I'd like to give him  
7 the opportunity. And then we'll have a period of  
8 question and answers.

9 Go right head, Mr. Weinstein.

10 MR. WEINSTEIN: I'll stand up here because  
11 otherwise I would become invisible.

12 It may seem to some of you at first glance  
13 that I don't quite fit into the group of people to the  
14 left of the speaker. But as I've explained to Reverend  
15 Bennett and to Carolyn Nah, I do belong there because I  
16 had a genealogical survey done and I'm a descendant of  
17 Solomon and the Queen of Sheba. So on her side, I  
18 believe on this side of the table.

19 That's not why I'm here though. I'm here  
20 because I swore on several occasions a very solemn oath  
21 which I take seriously and which nobody has relieved me  
22 of to uphold, protect and defend the Constitution of  
23 the and laws of the United States from all enemies,  
24 foreign and domestic. I got a little discharge for the  
25 foreign enemy part. Nobody has discharged me from my

1 obligation from the domestic part. And that's why I'm  
2 proud of the service I've done at the Civil Liberties  
3 Union.

4 I've not come here today to talk about the  
5 past. It's rotten and we cannot change it. And  
6 there's no secret about it. I want to talk about the  
7 future a little bit.

8 Bigots are by definition people who are  
9 incapable of or unwilling to make distinctions among  
10 individuals within any group. That means all bigots  
11 are partially blind and partially deaf and not too  
12 bright.

13 I don't think I suffer from that disease. I  
14 can make distinctions among the universe of people who  
15 are police officers. Like everybody else, there's a  
16 Bell Curve distribution from the really terrible to the  
17 really great at the extremes and most in the middle are  
18 just getting by.

19 My problem is with the institutions that feel  
20 it's necessary to cover up and protect the bigot  
21 psychopaths and sadists who walk around with guns and  
22 clubs and badges and use them in our name. And let me  
23 tell you something. If you believe, as I do, that all  
24 human beings have more in common with each other than  
25 separate us from each other, then you must recognize

1 that each of us has more in common with both Hitler and  
2 Schweitzer than separate us from Hitler and Schweitzer,  
3 and we'd better cultivate our Schweitzer and suppress  
4 our Hitler.

5 Now, if we all have more in common with each  
6 other than separates us, then it should come as no  
7 great surprise that just as genius and intelligence are  
8 randomly distributed throughout humanity, so are  
9 bigots, psychopaths and sadists. And they should be  
10 weeded out, but they are not.

11 We have three people in this room who could  
12 make a difference for the future. I don't know if they  
13 may be able to. We have Mr. Robinson, the U.S.  
14 Attorney, who has power, theoretically, to intervene  
15 when police officers violate civil rights because  
16 there's a law that says that is a crime. However,  
17 there's also something called federalism which says  
18 that he can't really move because the state's got to  
19 have first crack at them.

20 Mississippi has to be burning before you can  
21 effectively intervene.

22 Then we have the chief state's attorney, Mr.  
23 Bailey. Now, he's busy doing state stuff. I haven't  
24 eve heard -- I've never heard of a single Connecticut  
25 police officer being prosecuted by the state's

1 attorney's office for committing perjury, which goes on  
2 so frequently, or for violating civil rights.

3           What I have heard is Mr. John Conley who is  
4 the state's attorney for the judicial district of  
5 Waterbury, later became -- later became the director of  
6 public safety for the state. And I'm going to read a  
7 quote. As previously stated, whether or not Michael  
8 Robinson's civil rights were violated is not within the  
9 jurisdiction of this office. The state's attorney's  
10 office. Violation of one's civil rights comes within  
11 the jurisdiction of the federal government and that  
12 determination must be left to the federal agencies that  
13 have been vested with that authority.

14           A state's attorney for a whole judicial  
15 district telling all the cops in his district that as  
16 far as he is concerned, violations of civil rights are  
17 a federal problem when he knows perfectly well the  
18 limitations of staff a resources which makes effective  
19 enforcement of that law impossible. That is  
20 outrageous.

21           But you can't blame the state's attorneys.  
22 They have to work with the police officers because  
23 local cops are their eyes and ears and arms and legs.  
24 And there's a limit to how much you can do if you're  
25 going to chop off your own arms and legs.



1           I'll tell you how bad it is. As Vince Musto  
2 is my witness, two years ago nine police officers, all  
3 black, came to me saying they were flunking out of the  
4 academy at mid term because their grades were so low. I  
5 said, look, I've been fighting -- at that time -- for  
6 35 years to get more decent cops. I cannot stand up  
7 and say I'm going to go for lower standards.

8           They said, no, no, you don't understand. We  
9 had study groups the way you do in law school. And we  
10 studied with white officers. And when the exams came  
11 back, we looked at the questions and we looked at the  
12 answers and the white guys were getting twice as much  
13 credit -- or to put it more accurately, we were getting  
14 half the credit for the identical answers to the  
15 identical questions that the white guys were getting.

16           I took a formal appeal to the Civil Service  
17 Commission and I subpoenaed the exams in question and  
18 the department brings in the scores. I said, no, no.  
19 I want the exams. Well, tell you what. We will pay to  
20 send them to the state's academy and if they pass the  
21 state academy, then without losing a day of seniority  
22 they'll be put right back on the force.

23           We met. The families had a great investment  
24 in those people making it on the force. They elected  
25 to take the offer of the city of Bridgeport. Eight out

1 of nine of them passed. They are now serving on the  
2 department.

3 Bigotry is so endemic. We are meeting in a  
4 city in which three police officers who had been  
5 convicted of crimes involving civil rights were  
6 promoted after their convictions. Bocochini, two  
7 detectives, Harper and Christie, as Chief Torres well  
8 knows -- to sergeant after the brutal beating of John  
9 Colquit without the board of police commissioners even  
10 holding a hearing about it.

11 We are meeting in a city in which 10  
12 Bridgeport police officers searched a Jamaican variety  
13 store restaurant looking for pot and could not find  
14 even one shred, one grain of marijuana in a Jamaican  
15 variety store. It had to be the cleanest place in the  
16 city.

17 The people complained about those police  
18 officers stealing money in the process of executing  
19 their search warrant. It is undeniable because you've  
20 got the transcript, that money was seen in a the wallet  
21 of Pat White. By the time he got booked, there is no  
22 money in his wallet.

23 I got Carol, who was at that time the booking  
24 officer on the stand. And I said how come you noted  
25 the difference between saving certificates and treasury

1 notes. So wise guy civil rights lawyers like you can't  
2 accuse us of stealing. He was that careful in noting  
3 the type of bill. There is not a single dollar in Pat  
4 White's wallet although we know that Baretta Valegas  
5 saw the money. He testified to it.

6           Finally, after jumping through lots of hoops,  
7 we get a grand jury which didn't indict because  
8 although there was no question the Bridgeport police  
9 officer stole money, we couldn't prove which one did.  
10 So there was no action taken.

11           Now, what to do.

12           It is obvious that nobody, especially people  
13 with power who enjoy their use of power are going to  
14 give up that power simply by appeals to their better  
15 nature. If that could have worked, it would have been  
16 done years ago. Nobody changes their position vis-a-  
17 vis anyone else unless they believe, A, it's to my  
18 advantage to do so, which is called persuasion; or B,  
19 it's to my disadvantage not to do so, which is called  
20 coercion.

21           Persuasion doesn't work. Nothing will change  
22 the laws of inertia for better or worse. They operate  
23 with equal force in Bridgeport as the rest of the  
24 universe. Until there is an external force to bring  
25 about change, the things, the atrocities that have been

1 spoken about -- and I can match everybody at this table  
2 atrocity for atrocity because I've been doing this for  
3 40 years.

4           They may continue without let or hindrance  
5 until either in each city we get a federal monitor or  
6 special master appointed. We have one for internal  
7 department bigotry right now. There's a case pending  
8 to try to compel the appointment of a special master to  
9 handle civilian complaints against police. But that's  
10 only going to be against Bridgeport.

11           We need a state opportunity either by way of  
12 something like the Connecticut State Board of  
13 Arbitration and Mediation, in which high ranking police  
14 officials -- we've got some wonderful retired chiefs  
15 here -- community members and public members,  
16 academics, law school people, sitting as a panel have  
17 the power to make decisions about civilian complaints  
18 against police.

19           We can't rely on the feds. There aren't  
20 enough of them and it's not strictly speaking their  
21 job. The way the Supreme Court's going, there's not  
22 going to be much left of civil right anyway.

23           The state's attorneys have limited access and  
24 they've got to work with the Congress. But an  
25 independent board with the power to have subpoenas,

1 cease and desist, and act effectively, could make a  
2 difference.

3           In appropriate cases there's going to have to  
4 be an effort made for greater intervention by the feds  
5 because sooner or later somebody ought to bring one  
6 good decisive perjury prosecution. Once the word gets  
7 out that some cop may actually be held responsible for  
8 committing perjury, I think the volume of it may go  
9 down a bit.

10           I would warn you not to rely on internal  
11 affairs. They use more whitewash than gasoline in  
12 their operation.

13           You have a tape? I suggest you get that tape  
14 to the U.S. Attorney's Office, Mr. Robinson, because if  
15 Sturdivant gets his hands on it, it's going to be dust  
16 in the capital when they replay it and somehow it's  
17 going to erase. It will not be the first time.

18           BOARD MEMBER JOHNSON: Mr. Weinstein, if you  
19 could summarize.

20           MR. WEINSTEIN: In summary, the answer.  
21 Unless you're willing to subscribe to despair and wait  
22 until enough atrocities happen to cause an explosion in  
23 the streets, then we're going to have to look to  
24 institutions outside the system to impose some minimum  
25 standards of decency. A state board made up of

1 credible people to handle civilian complaints against  
2 police and greatly, greatly increased involvement in  
3 holding police officers responsible for committing  
4 civil rights crimes either through the chief state's  
5 attorney's office or through the U.S. Attorney's  
6 office. And that pressure must continue.

7 I would urge everybody who has been affronted  
8 by police officers to file a written complaint with  
9 internal affairs. Not that they'll do anything about  
10 it but when the pile of paper gets big enough, when it  
11 gets big enough, they may just begin to fear the  
12 avalanche and start to do something.

13 BOARD MEMBER JOHNSON: We have a second panel,  
14 all on the same topic, so if we could just play a  
15 little musical chairs here for a few minutes. And then  
16 we will get into a period of question and answers from  
17 both members of the Committee and also from our folks  
18 in the audience.

19 CHAIRMAN MACY: A two minute break while  
20 we're reorganizing. Stretch your legs.

21 (Off the record.)

22 BOARD MEMBER JOHNSON: We have an additional  
23 four presenters here this afternoon, public officials  
24 who are also making a presentation.

25 The rules essentially remain the same. Each

1 presentation is 10 minutes in length with a little  
2 warning buzzer and you can run another minute or two  
3 comfortably. Again, our appreciation to each of these  
4 folks for taking time from their schedules to be with  
5 us this afternoon.

6 At this point, let me introduce Mr. Hector  
7 Torres, who's the Acting Chief of Police in the  
8 Bridgeport Police Department; Mr. John Bailey, who is  
9 the chief state's attorney; Stephen Robinson, the U.S.  
10 Attorney for the State of Connecticut; and Mr. Martin  
11 Walsh, Director of the U.S. Department of Justice, the  
12 Community Relations Services. And Mr. Daniels is also  
13 kind of remaining. Mr. Daniels has kind of a foot in  
14 both camps, so we appreciate his participation here as  
15 well.

16 So, perhaps we could begin at this point.  
17 Mr. Bailey, --

18 MR. BAILEY: I think Mr. Robinson. He's the  
19 highest federal officer in the state of Connecticut.

20 BOARD MEMBER JOHNSON: I was thinking of your  
21 schedule, Mr. Bailey.

22 MR. BAILEY: I'll then speak after.

23 BOARD MEMBER JOHNSON: That's fine.

24 Mr. Bailey does have to leave a little bit  
25 early this afternoon because of a prior scheduling

1 commitment, but we can open certainly with Mr.  
2 Robinson, the U.S. Attorney for the State of  
3 Connecticut.

4 Mr. Robinson.

5 MR. ROBINSON: Great. Thank you.

6 I sat with a great deal of interest through  
7 the earlier panel's presentations and have a lot of  
8 reactions.

9 And I thought initially I was going to tell  
10 you a little bit about my background, but frankly  
11 that's not particularly important right now.

12 What I'll talk about is what I do as a U.S.  
13 Attorney and what I feel what your obligation is in  
14 this area.

15 As the U.S. Attorney, I am the chief federal  
16 law enforcement officer in this state. And that means  
17 that on the federal side, no criminal matters are  
18 brought without my approval. That's whether it's  
19 investigated by the DEA or the FBI or the IRS or ATF or  
20 the Secret Service or any of them.

21 I have the final approval. What that means  
22 fundamentally is that with respect to the issue here  
23 today, civil rights, it is my ability to either  
24 initiate investigations or bring prosecutions that sort  
25 of guides this process. And I take that very



1 seriously.

2           And there are a couple of things that were  
3 said in the earlier panels that don't fully explain  
4 what's going on, at least certainly in the last two  
5 years since I've been the U.S. Attorney.

6           When I became the U.S. Attorney, I had heard  
7 tremendous concern around issues of racial profiling in  
8 Trumbull, Connecticut, and I took those very seriously.  
9 So I went to the FBI and said we're going to  
10 investigate that with your best agents.

11           Let me just tell you something that's a hard  
12 fact of the way this works, whether you like it or not.  
13 This is the way it works. I operate in the world of  
14 courtrooms and evidence. I don't operate in the world  
15 of what people think they know, what somebody's sister  
16 once told them two years ago happened. I operate in  
17 the world of evidence that I can bring in court.

18           No evidence, no case. End of story.  
19 Regardless of what I think or what you think or what my  
20 mother or brother or best friend thinks. I have to  
21 have evidence.

22           So I heard there were issues of racial  
23 profiling in Trumbull. I said to the FBI, we're going  
24 to investigate that. We're going to investigate it  
25 very seriously. And we went out with the best agents

1 that this office has to offer and we went to the NAACP  
2 and said tell us who are the witnesses who have been  
3 the victims from your perspective. Because I have to  
4 operate in the world of evidence. We all can sit in  
5 this room and say as much as we want that there's  
6 racial profiling in Trumbull. If I don't have  
7 evidence, and from all I can do, it doesn't exist.

8           So I went to the NAACP and I went to the  
9 Urban League and I went to some of the faith community.  
10 We went and interviewed people and knocked door to  
11 door. And you know what? There wasn't a single person  
12 who said to us that they had been the victim or could  
13 point us to a victim of racial profiling.

14           Does that mean that it didn't happen? No.  
15 What does that mean? I've got no case. That's the  
16 world in which I operate.

17           I'm going to be honest with you. That's the  
18 world in which I operate, in which I can go into a  
19 grand jury and then a court of law and say here is the  
20 evidence. That evidence is not people all upset. That  
21 evidence is not I'm upset. That evidence is there are  
22 documents, there's people who are going to testify,  
23 there is something that I can show you. That's the  
24 world in which I operate.

25           It may or may not make people feel good about

1 that but that's what I need in order to do what all of  
2 us would want done. That is, if there's inappropriate  
3 activity, to go after the people who are engaged in  
4 that inappropriate activity.

5 I'm more than willing to do it. Jack Bailey  
6 and I have indicted six Hartford police officers,  
7 convicted four of them for raping the lowest of the low  
8 prostitutes. Where what we had on one side was a  
9 prostitute who said they did it to me, and the officer  
10 who said they didn't. We had evidence. We had a  
11 person who stood up and we did it.

12 We are doing it and we will continue to do  
13 it. That's the reality. This is not a personality  
14 contest. This isn't how much you like me or don't like  
15 me. I hope you like me. I do my job. I think I do it  
16 well. But the reality is I need evidence.

17 So the extent that anyone feels that people  
18 are being abused, I need somebody to tell me about it.  
19 I need somebody who's an eyewitness. That's the end of  
20 the story. That's the world in which I operate.

21 And so to the extent that I can be helpful,  
22 the other part about it is I will protect any person  
23 who is involved in a federal investigation. I will say  
24 that again. I will protect any person who is giving  
25 evidence in a federal investigation from harassment.

1 There is no police officer in this state that is silly  
2 enough to harass or threaten a witness in my  
3 investigation. But I need a witness. I need evidence.

4 I spent two years in my office investigating  
5 Willy Jones. And I heard some talk about that. I  
6 spent two years. That investigation was in the office  
7 before I was the U.S. Attorney. After I became the  
8 U.S. Attorney we started the investigation over.

9 We did two years of investigation. We  
10 interviewed 300 people. Despite what anyone thinks  
11 happened, I'm going to tell you the truth. It doesn't  
12 matter what really happened. What matters is what  
13 evidence I can put on in a court of law. If no one saw  
14 it, if no one says it, from the lowest perspective, it  
15 didn't happen. How can I prove that it happened?

16 And that's the reality of the case. I issued  
17 a 90-page report that I distributed literally to anyone  
18 who wanted to see it. It sent it liberally to people  
19 in prison who called my office or wrote to my office  
20 and said they wanted it.

21 You know, the interesting thing about all the  
22 comments about this case now? Between the lawyers  
23 involved, between the members of the community, no one  
24 has criticized anything I've said or done in that  
25 report. Because the bottom line is I do my job and I

1 do it well.

2           And I don't do it, Mr. Weinstein, because I  
3 think it's in my advantage to do it. I do it because  
4 it is my job and I take it seriously. I take my job  
5 seriously.

6           I come from a certain perspective, obviously,  
7 because of who I am and my background. I grew up in a  
8 housing project in Brooklyn that makes PT Barnum look  
9 like Westport, Connecticut. That's where I grew up in  
10 Bedford Stuyvesant, the worst neighborhood of Brooklyn.

11           I come at this job from a certain perspective  
12 but the reality of the way that this system works is  
13 that you need evidence in a court of law. Whether you  
14 think there's profiling, whether you think that there's  
15 a police officer committing brutality, whether you  
16 think that there's lying or cheating or stealing, from  
17 my perspective it didn't happen unless I can prove it  
18 happened.

19           I can't go to a grand jury. I think it's an  
20 ethical violation. I could be sued for taking a case  
21 to a grand jury where there isn't evidence. I could  
22 personally be sued.

23           I love this job. I take it seriously. I'm  
24 not getting sued over it.

25           The bottom line is I need evidence. That's

1 the way it works.

2           There was a hue and outcry -- the last part  
3 of my comments which were nothing of what I planned to  
4 say, but some of the things said today I just think  
5 need to be straightened out.

6           The last part is there was a hue and cry in  
7 this community over Russell Pillar having shot a young  
8 boy and his mother. A hue and cry. Russell Pillar, if  
9 he did that -- he's not convicted yet. If he ain't  
10 convicted, he didn't do it from my perspective or the  
11 perspective of the law. If he did it, I don't back  
12 down for one second for expending all the resources  
13 that we did on the federal side in conjunction with our  
14 partners on the state side to go after him and convict  
15 him and his brother of all of the activity they did.

16           We prosecuted them federally for all of the  
17 drug activity that is destroying the African-American  
18 community, and it makes me sick to think that we make  
19 excuses for these people. It makes me sick. These  
20 people are destroying your sons, your daughters, your  
21 brothers, your sisters, my sons, my daughters, my  
22 brothers and sisters. And I make no apology today or  
23 ever for putting them in jail.

24           I do that. I'm proud to do that. But I do  
25 it with evidence. I don't do it from cheating or

1 lying. I do it with evidence. If there is  
2 inappropriate activity by a police officer and I have  
3 evidence, I will investigate it, whether we did it in  
4 Hartford with the least likely to be believed people in  
5 this country, low level street walking prostitutes. If  
6 their civil rights are violated, it's my problem and  
7 I'm going to do something about it and I have and I  
8 will continue to.

9           But if I don't have evidence, there's nothing  
10 I can do. And we can sit around and talk about it all  
11 we want and be as angry as we want.

12           My last comment. The civil rights laws, the  
13 reason that a state's attorney would say to somebody  
14 that the civil rights laws are the problem of the fed  
15 is that the civil rights laws are federal statutes. In  
16 the state you would prosecute somebody for assault or  
17 murder. In the federal system, I can't prosecute you  
18 for assault and murder. The statutes that I have are  
19 called civil rights violations.

20           It is not that a state's attorney is saying I  
21 don't care about civil rights violations. There's not  
22 a state law that he could prosecute that under. So if  
23 you're talking about civil rights, I'm the fed. That's  
24 me. If you're talking about assault or brutality or  
25 murder, I don't have those statutes. You never hear a

1 federal case charging anyone with assault or brutality.  
2 That's what the state does so that's why he talks in  
3 those terms.

4 When he talks about the civil rights being  
5 the problem for the fed or a federal issue, he's right.  
6 That's a federal law. He couldn't prosecute under it.  
7 I prosecute under it. And I take that very seriously.

8 So if you have evidence, I'm more than  
9 willing to act. I have in the past. I will in the  
10 future. I have had to drop investigations -- not had  
11 to drop. I appropriately dropped investigations of  
12 three police departments, including Trumbull, because  
13 there wasn't the evidence for me to go forward.

14 Some of the people in this room we contacted  
15 in search of evidence in those cases. There's no  
16 evidence. I got no case. That's the world in which I  
17 operate.

18 Thank you.

19 BOARD MEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you very much,  
20 Mr. Robinson.

21 Mr. Bailey.

22 MR. BAILEY: Thank you. If I may, I'll stand  
23 up. And I am like Mr. Robinson. I have prepared  
24 remarks but after sitting here I don't think they would  
25 be what you want to hear.



1 CHAIRMAN MACY: But you will leave us your  
2 prepared remarks?

3 MR. BAILEY: I already did. You've got them  
4 right there.

5 First of all, I heard many things and I think  
6 some people in the community, not just Bridgeport, but  
7 the minority community believes that we're ostriches.  
8 We just put our head in the sand and we never listen,  
9 we never react, we never take any law enforcement  
10 action against police officers. That is absolutely not  
11 true.

12 We heard about the Bloomfield case where a  
13 gentleman was beat up, attacked in front of the  
14 Bloomfield Police Department. That is true. What no  
15 one told this audience was he was arrested. He was  
16 prosecuted and he's going to jail.

17 People mentioned Mr. Conley. They mentioned  
18 police shootings. I think we know the Smith case and  
19 John Conley, a state's attorney.

20 Frank Mackle, the state's attorney of  
21 Lichfield where the incident happened, he felt there  
22 would be a conflict because he worked with the local  
23 police officers. And also, he prosecuted the victim of  
24 the shooting. So he asked me as chief state's attorney  
25 to appoint another state's attorney to do the

1 investigation, which I did. I appointed John Conley  
2 and requested the Connecticut State Police to do the  
3 investigation.

4 As you know, Officer Smith was arrested and  
5 tried for murder. Right now he is out on appeal.

6 We mentioned racial profiling. That is not  
7 accepted in the state of Connecticut. It will never be  
8 accepted. And we're the only one of only two states in  
9 the country, North Carolina and Connecticut, where  
10 right now we have every police department, including  
11 the Connecticut State Police, must record every stop,  
12 the racial makeup, why the stop is made and, more  
13 importantly, what action was taken.

14 You say, well, what's going to happen to  
15 those statistics? Well, originally they were going to  
16 be sent to the chief state's attorney's office for me  
17 to come out with a report. And said, wait a minute. I  
18 don't want them. I want them to go to the University  
19 of Connecticut Statistical Department and have them do  
20 an independent analysis and then give me back the  
21 statistical breakup on profiling.

22 And we're the only state. North Carolina has  
23 it. But if we find racial profiling in the state of  
24 Connecticut under the law that was passed last year,  
25 the state of Connecticut, on my recommendation -- let's

1 say it's Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, Tyler,  
2 Vernon. I can recommend that all state money coming  
3 from the Office of Policy Management be turned off to  
4 that city or town. And that's what I'll do.

5           And every month I've been meeting with the  
6 Office of Policy Management, Office of Technology,  
7 University of Connecticut. Every department in this  
8 state is following the law. And if we find racial  
9 profiling, there will be punishments. There's no  
10 doubt.

11           The other area that I want to mention -- and  
12 no one mentioned it -- and that is our drug laws in the  
13 state of Connecticut. In 1987, the state of  
14 Connecticut passed a law making selling of a half a  
15 gram of crack cocaine a mandatory five-year sentence.  
16 The same law requires a minimum of one ounce of powder  
17 cocaine before a five-year sentence is imposed. That  
18 ratio is 56 to 1.

19           In the federal law, they even impose a  
20 harsher sentence for selling crack cocaine. Under the  
21 federal guidelines the ratio for powder versus crack is  
22 100 to 1. I don't think our legislature, both federal  
23 or state, passed these laws on a racial based bias.  
24 But I think we can examine these laws now and I think  
25 our next general assembly here in Connecticut will be

1 examining the law because should someone be given a  
2 mandatory minimum sentence for possession of a half a  
3 gram of crack?

4 We're going to be looking at that. We're  
5 looking at other states.

6 And finally, what I'd like to say to you is  
7 the state's attorneys -- there are 13 of them in the  
8 state of Connecticut. After the Aquan Salmon shooting,  
9 the Governor of the state of Connecticut, John Rollin,  
10 called the Governor's Law Enforcement Council together.  
11 We examined these shootings.

12 Let me be completely candid with you. We  
13 felt, the Governor's Law Enforcement Council felt we  
14 were not doing a good job. We have now adopted  
15 protocols where anyone, anyone in the state from the  
16 Governor to you can request that the chief state's  
17 attorney take the local state's attorney off that  
18 investigation if they feel there is a bias. And that  
19 we can bring in another state's attorney, as we did  
20 with John Conley or I can appoint a special state's  
21 attorney, like that gentleman lawyer sitting up front.  
22 I can appoint anyone.

23 MR. ROBINSON: Are you committing to appoint  
24 Burt?

25 MR. BAILEY: But one thing I want to tell you

1 all. We understand there are problems and we're going  
2 to address those problems, the U.S. Attorney and I.

3           You mentioned Maliq Jones. When Kevin  
4 Chambers was doing the investigation in the Aquan  
5 Salmon case in Hartford, we turned over every piece of  
6 documentation to the U.S. Attorney's office so that  
7 they didn't have to go out if they want to do another  
8 investigation, so they're ready to do it. They don't  
9 have to wait six to eight months.

10           My feeling is if we're hiding something, it's  
11 wrong. If we're not going our jobs, it's wrong. And  
12 what we're saying to you today is we understand there  
13 are problems in the system and we're going to address  
14 those problems.

15           Thank you.

16           BOARD MEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Bailey.

17           Next we have Mr. Martin Walsh, Director of  
18 the U.S. Department of Justice, Community Relations  
19 Service.

20           MR. WALSH: Good afternoon. My name is Marty  
21 Walsh. I'm the Regional Director of the Community  
22 Relations Service, U.S. Department of Justice.

23           Our agency was established in '64, the 1964  
24 Civil Rights Act, to assist communities resolve  
25 problems which arise from discrimination, actual or

1 perceived based on race, color or national origin.  
2 We're the alternative to the litigation approach of the  
3 federal government.

4           And as Mr. Robinson's office is the  
5 prosecutor and uses the FBI to do his investigation for  
6 them, we are the alternative set up by the federal  
7 government in order to try to look at these issues  
8 where it's not necessarily who's going to be prosecuted  
9 or not prosecuted but where the community relations and  
10 the tensions in the community are at risk and problems  
11 are occurring.

12           Now, over the past years we have seen as our  
13 topic is talking about today, what is police-community  
14 relations in the year 2000. And police-community  
15 relations in the year 2000 is not good. What happens  
16 in Bridgeport is impacted what has happened across the  
17 country. And as we see it from our perspective and in  
18 the Department last year, the Attorney General and  
19 President convened a group in June of last year in  
20 Washington to start looking at these issues in a very  
21 much in depth way and continue to do so. They're  
22 looking very much at the issues of excess use of force,  
23 racial profiling, hate crimes which have taken place,  
24 police-youth relations, the whole issue of training of  
25 officers, the recruitment and selection of officers and

1 the police culture. Why are some of the problems in  
2 some departments occurring where there's oftentimes the  
3 use of a weapon and in other departments there isn't  
4 such use of weaponry. And the whole area of the  
5 community involvement or community policing. Where do  
6 we all fit together.

7           These are issues which are besetting us. And  
8 every community in this country is affected by that.

9           We get calls daily from small communities  
10 that have a predominantly white police force, white  
11 citizenry, an African-American or person of color is  
12 driving through, gets stopped. And in that type of  
13 encounter between the police and the community the  
14 dynamic that has happened across the country is being  
15 played out between that person who's being stopped and  
16 that officer.

17           And how that encounter goes depends upon the  
18 entire environment in which we're in. And if we don't  
19 do anything to start addressing this issue, these types  
20 of encounters are going to continue to escalate where  
21 we have, as in one of the communities I'm looking at  
22 down in Massachusetts, where a reporter with a hand  
23 recorder is identified as a person with a gun, a black  
24 reporter that has a gun in the face of this white  
25 person.

1           So that is the environment out there.

2           Our office is a conciliation/mediation arm.  
3       Several things we do is we do respond where there are  
4       problems occurring in communities. We come in and  
5       provide our conciliation/mediation assistance to try to  
6       reconcile, rebuild, to address those issues which are  
7       creating the type of tensions and problems in the  
8       community. And that's what you pay us to do and we  
9       believe that we can be helpful and our services are  
10      successful in that arena.

11           We provide technical assistance to  
12      communities. I want to show you some of the types of  
13      programs and efforts we do, because we're looking at  
14      these types of problems around the country.

15           We're talking about principles of good  
16      policing, avoiding violence between police and  
17      citizens, looking at values to underscore what is  
18      happening in police departments, how we train police,  
19      how we select them, what are the principles there.

20           We talk about the issues there in  
21      understanding community policing so that if you're  
22      putting together a community policing partnership, how  
23      it should be operated. We're talking about the whole  
24      excessive use of force, police use of force, and a  
25      conciliation handbook for the police and the community.



1 So these issues which oftentimes start at maybe a  
2 complaint, they can be addressed properly and guidance  
3 given to police and to the community so that there can  
4 be this type of partnership cooperation, everyone  
5 working from the same page, knowing what we can do  
6 together to address these type of problems.

7           And the major issue that Chief Pastore talked  
8 about today, this whole issue of policing youth, a  
9 critical problem. This is where the rubber really hits  
10 the road insofar as police-community relations. We  
11 know the ages between 13 and 25 are the highest  
12 perpetrators of crime. This is when the young people  
13 and the police are engaged in many types of  
14 communications and what takes place and how later that  
15 deteriorates into an incident in which there's loss of  
16 life or it develops into a situation in which there can  
17 be a rebuilding where that young person can be taught  
18 to correct his or her type of activities.

19           And that's where police and youth working  
20 together is so critically necessary.

21           And one other is this one of one America, the  
22 dialogue that has to take place. We have to talk about  
23 race. The President set up a commission to look at  
24 this and says in this country we are pulling apart.  
25 All of the studies show that they've come out, the

1 disparity between black and Hispanics and whites  
2 insofar as every statistic that means anything related  
3 to our future. Education, the differentiation, the  
4 arrests, the incarcerations, and income and wealth.  
5 All these things are pulling us apart. And if we do  
6 not do anything as a society to start pulling us  
7 together, to get the dialogue going, to get people  
8 talking about these differences in race, to say here is  
9 the bottom line of America, because we can't get  
10 together. We can't trust one another.

11           If we can't rebuild those relationships which  
12 are critical just for society to exist then we're going  
13 to destroy ourselves.

14           So what do we need? We need right today the  
15 partnership from the federal, state and local level.  
16 Our national administration has been trying to with  
17 Janet Reno and the President saying we've got to deal  
18 with this racial issue. We've got to deal with these  
19 problems. We can't put racial profiling. We can't put  
20 excessive use of force. We've got to say it's out  
21 there and how are we going to deal with it.

22           And we have persons like U.S. Attorney  
23 Robinson providing that leadership on the state level.  
24 If the state, federal, state and local law enforcement  
25 are coming together and being on the same page so that

1 we know that these issues have to be addressed  
2 collaboratively and in full view of the public.  
3 Because that is so critical. So that we rebuild that  
4 trust.

5           The second thing is the partnership. When we  
6 talk about community policing, it's the police and the  
7 community. We have not built that type of relationship  
8 in most communities. It's the exception rather than  
9 the rule, even after eight years of community policing  
10 do you have that type of partnership that really is  
11 built upon trust and problem solving between two  
12 partners. Community policing. Working together.  
13 We've got to break down those barriers and they're  
14 there. And it's just a critical essence to it.

15           Bringing people together to link especially  
16 police and community to deal with that dialogue. And  
17 police and young people together to talk and to say  
18 what are the issues and the problems and how can we  
19 work together.

20           And the other part of this partnership that  
21 we needed in the communities are police in schools and  
22 communities working together. We had a conference in  
23 April in Newport where we brought together police and  
24 school officials in communities to say this is where we  
25 have to really work together. Because the police are

1 in the schools more and more. The young people and the  
2 police and other agencies working together.

3           What is the best thing for this young person  
4 at risk. How can we help these young people who may be  
5 going astray. What is the best way we can work  
6 together. How can we share our resources. How can we  
7 both be on the same wavelength and have the same values  
8 so that the schools are not distrusted with police  
9 coming in that the police are just there to arrest and  
10 the police just don't see the schools as someone out  
11 there just ignoring crime that's taking place. We've  
12 got to work together. And that's so critical.

13           But the point from last night -- I was here  
14 for the school thing and today for the police. The  
15 most critical thing is the leadership in these  
16 communities. The leadership has to be there, starting  
17 at the top. From there, the two critical people, the  
18 chief of police, the superintendent of schools,  
19 providing that type of leadership and being accountable  
20 to the residents, to the people of the community and  
21 working and forging that type of relationship and  
22 partnership.

23           Thank you.

24           CHAIRMAN MACY: Mr. Walsh, with your remarks,  
25 could you put in an annotated bibliography of the

1 things that you're talking about?

2 MR. WALSH: Sure.

3 CHAIRMAN MACY: Thank you.

4 BOARD MEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Our next  
5 presenter is Mr. Hector Torres, the Acting Chief of  
6 Police here in Bridgeport.

7 Mr. Torres.

8 (Pause.)

9 AUDIENCE: (Off mike.)

10 BOARD MEMBER JOHNSON: Mr. Bailey does have a  
11 pretty tight schedule this afternoon but we will permit  
12 some questions. We also want to invite members of our  
13 committee to ask questions of the panelists as well.

14 AUDIENCE: (Off mike.)

15 BOARD MEMBER JOHNSON: You go right ahead.  
16 You ask your question and then we'll invite others to  
17 do likewise. If you could identify yourself, sir.

18 AUDIENCE: I'm Reverend Vernon S. Thompson.  
19 I've served in the religious community of this area for  
20 14 years. I've never heard from you but you said you  
21 met with us, so I want to talk to you as --

22 BOARD MEMBER JOHNSON: I didn't say I met with  
23 you.

24 (Crosstalk.)

25 Again, in order to maintain the communication

1 and the dignity and respect that many of the speakers  
2 have talked about here today, one person speaking at a  
3 time, please.

4 REV. THOMPSON: Did you say I could speak?

5 BOARD MEMBER JOHNSON: You may speak.

6 REV. THOMPSON: Thank you, sir.

7 Reverend Vernon S. Thompson. I've served in  
8 the Bridgeport area for the last 14 years. I've served  
9 in many different capacities. I served on the  
10 taskforce in Trumbull. I was one of the citizens that  
11 was brought to Washington, D.C. I presented on part  
12 of a panel with him in New Hampshire. I dealt with  
13 these issues in a committed way for quite some time.

14 His question to me was who are you. So let  
15 me finish that.

16 My question, and I'm very concerned because  
17 I've attended each day in the recent case that the  
18 police was found guilty of manslaughter. My concern  
19 is, as Marty has suggested very well, in New Hampshire,  
20 all of the chief of police across New Hampshire  
21 confessed that they had racism. That they're left  
22 there by themselves and they asked us for help.

23 I think the problem many times is, because  
24 I've been on both sides. I've served as the Police  
25 Director at Bridgeport. City attorneys --

1 BOARD MEMBER JOHNSON: Excuse me, Reverend  
2 Thompson, with all due respect, I'm sorry. You  
3 mentioned you have a question. Get to the question,  
4 please.

5 I believe your question was to be to Mr.  
6 Bailey.

7 REV. THOMPSON: And it is.

8 BOARD MEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

9 REV. THOMPSON: So my question to him -- I'm  
10 doing this because I don't want my question to be  
11 manipulated like you manipulated -- let me finish.

12 BOARD MEMBER JOHNSON: I'm not attempting to  
13 manipulate, with all due respect.

14 CHAIRMAN MACY: Excuse me. We are having an  
15 open forum from 4:10 until 5:10 where anyone can --

16 REV. THOMPSON: (Off mike.)

17 CHAIRMAN MACY: Ask a question and you can  
18 make your presentation later.

19 BOARD MEMBER JOHNSON: I'm the moderator, sir.  
20 Please ask the question.

21 REV. THOMPSON: Okay. My question is, as I  
22 was suggesting, one of the dilemmas that we  
23 encountered, even -- and we did not support anyone in  
24 the community who is drug addicted or had a drug  
25 problem. But we are sensitive to the drug issue. And

1 we feel in our community many times when I see a  
2 murder, a police convicted, who gets less --

3 BOARD MEMBER JOHNSON: Sir, if you could get  
4 to the question for Mr. Bailey, please?

5 REV. THOMPSON: I'm getting to it. Give me a  
6 minute and I'll ask it as I choose. You didn't tell  
7 any of them how to present themselves. Why is it with  
8 a black man comes you want to tell me how to proceed.

9 BOARD MEMBER JOHNSON: Sir, with all due  
10 respect --

11 (Crosstalk.)

12 REV. THOMPSON: I'm trying to give him a sense  
13 of my question. Now my presentation may not be her  
14 presentation but it's my presentation. And I assure  
15 you it won't take 30 seconds if you stop interrupting  
16 me.

17 BOARD MEMBER JOHNSON: Please proceed. But  
18 again, please get to the question.

19 REV. THOMPSON: My question is, as was  
20 suggested, many of the dilemmas of black people and  
21 Hispanic is the bonding problem. Many times those  
22 people caught with crack cocaine are on million dollar  
23 bonds and murders are put on \$260 or less. That's my  
24 question.

25 We have talked about this before.



1           Go ahead.

2           MR. BAILEY: The bond is set in the state of  
3 Connecticut, as you know, on a Rule 666 of the practice  
4 book. We have an independent bond commissioner -- bail  
5 commissioner. The state attorney will make a  
6 recommendation for bond. The bail commissioner will  
7 make a recommendation. Defense lawyers will make a  
8 recommendation.

9           Then it is up to the judge to make that  
10 determination of what bond is set. Therefore, it's a  
11 judicial bond being set and not a state's attorney's  
12 bond and not a bail commissioner's bond. So the judges  
13 set the bonds in this state.

14          REV. THOMPSON: At all times?

15          MR. BAILEY: All times.

16          REV. THOMPSON: Even before they get to court?

17          MR. BAILEY: If they get to court, a police  
18 officer can request that a bond be put on a warrant by  
19 a judge of the superior court. As you know, we have to  
20 present that person within 36 hours after arrest and  
21 therefore, that bond is reviewed in open court with  
22 defense counsel there.

23          BOARD MEMBER JOHNSON: Yes, ma'am?

24          And I apologize.

25          AUDIENCE: That's okay. A similar question.

1           If you noticed, in my remarks I mentioned a  
2 cash bond situation and the young man that we had to  
3 drag out of the NAACP meeting at our last meeting.  
4 Those kids that were arrested in Trumbull Gardens that  
5 were put on a million dollar bond never went before the  
6 court. Those bonds were set by the Connecticut  
7 Fugitive Taskforce.

8           My question to you is how could they get away  
9 with setting those million dollar bonds and most of  
10 them were substance abusers. When they were arrested,  
11 the bonds were set by the Connecticut Fugitive  
12 Taskforce. We were told that. that's your  
13 responsibility.

14           How did the Connecticut Fugitive Taskforce  
15 get away with placing people on million dollar bonds  
16 period.

17           MR. ROBINSON: There are a couple of different  
18 things. The Connecticut Fugitive Taskforce is a  
19 federal group of law enforcement officers that come  
20 together to execute arrest warrants when people are  
21 fugitive.

22           MS. NAH: These were not warrants.

23           MR. ROBINSON: Then it's not the Connecticut  
24 Fugitive Taskforce.

25           MS. NAH: The Fugitive Taskforce came to

1 Trumbull Gardens. We've already asked Jack and he said  
2 he had nothing to do with it, other than the fact that  
3 he belongs to (off mike).

4 MR. ROBINSON: They can't set bonds.

5 MS. NAH: They made the arrests and they set  
6 the bonds.

7 MR. ROBINSON: No, they don't.

8 MS. NAH: (Off mike.)

9 MR. ROBINSON: I'm sure they have gone before  
10 the courts. And that was argued, I'm sure.

11 If bonds are set, it has to be a judge who  
12 does it.

13 MS. NAH: (Off mike.) That's my question.

14 Sir, I'm not lying to you.

15 MR. ROBINSON: I'm telling you the way --

16 MR. NAH: You're telling me what it should be  
17 but I'm telling you what is.

18 (Off mike.)

19 Thank you very much. That's all I want to  
20 know.

21 AUDIENCE: I just want to ask you is there a  
22 criteria that the average lay person could read which  
23 will associate the crime, alleged crime, with the bond?

24 And the second question is I can read the  
25 newspapers and I can usually associate bond with

1 whether or not it was a black on black crime or a black  
2 on white crime. I read the newspaper and I see the  
3 crime. If a black kills another black, I don't see  
4 where the bond is that high. And then if it's a crime  
5 against a white, the bond is just much higher.

6 So the first question is the criteria. Can I  
7 read it as a lay person and see -- okay, you stole  
8 something. This is your bond. You had crack. This is  
9 the bond.

10 9: As I said, I think we have to look at  
11 that.

12 AUDIENCE: I just want to make a comment with  
13 respect to the U.S. Attorney. And this is a statement.  
14 This is a statement and I won't have to get up again.

15 I thought that your remarks were somewhat  
16 arrogant. And that disturbed me.

17 And secondly, I think that your peers and the  
18 public will assess whether or not you're doing a good  
19 job.

20 BOARD MEMBER JOHNSON: People will be  
21 welcome, as we go through, to get up again. At this  
22 point, we're directing questions to Mr. Bailey because  
23 he has to leave a little bit early, so we're allowing  
24 some time for that.

25 MR. MEEKINS: Yes. My name is Ted Meekins --

1 MR. BAILEY: I don't think I answered that.

2 BOARD MEMBER JOHNSON: I'm sorry. I  
3 apologize. You may respond.

4 MR. BAILEY: There should be a handout by the  
5 Judicial Department setting down how bonds are set. We  
6 don't have preventive detention in the state of  
7 Connecticut.

8 AUDIENCE: But are there ranges?

9 MR. BAILEY: There are ranges. As Steve said,  
10 the judge sets the bond after the person is interviewed  
11 by the Bail Commission. The state argues for one  
12 position. The defense argues for another position.  
13 Then there's a recommendation by an independent person  
14 based on the person's record, his day he's to appear in  
15 court and the seriousness of the case. Then it's up to  
16 the judge to set the bond. And there's a pamphlet on  
17 that, too.

18 Matter of fact, the former Chief Justice  
19 Peters asked her chief court administrator to examine  
20 how bonds were being set in the state of Connecticut so  
21 they would not be based on any racial profiling.

22 BOARD MEMBER JOHNSON: Mr. Meekins.

23 MR. MEEKINS: Ted Meekins.

24 I have an article and it's in Jet magazine,  
25 and it shows Reverend Jackson in Wallingford. And it

1 shows the Ku Klux Klan. Just as the swastika  
2 represents a very negative attitude in the Jewish  
3 community, Ku Klux Klan represents a very negative  
4 attitude in the black community. And I'm aware that  
5 there's hate crime laws.

6 My question is why wasn't any of those Klans  
7 arrested because they're shown here wearing masks and  
8 we have a statute against wearing masks. And the  
9 police did nothing up there in Wallingford concerning  
10 the Klan marching with their masks on.

11 And I'd like to know, from whoever can  
12 answer.

13 MR. BAILEY: If you recall, that picture was  
14 on the front page of the Hartford Courier. It couldn't  
15 have got any bigger. It was a disgrace for Wallingford.  
16 It was a disgrace for the states because it went  
17 throughout the United States, that picture.

18 Checking the new law on racial -- not  
19 profiling. On hate crimes. You cannot use a mask when  
20 you commit a crime. It's an enhanced penalty.

21 The question on that was was he doing his  
22 First Amendment right to demonstrate. He did not  
23 strike the Reverend. He did not do anything physically  
24 to the Reverend. He just stood there, if you look at  
25 the picture. And that's the First Amendment.

1           AUDIENCE: In connection with that same  
2 statement, Juliani said that he would not allow the  
3 Klan to march in New York unless they took their masks  
4 off.

5           (Crosstalk.)

6           MR. ROBINSON: It's an issue of the way the  
7 First Amendment to the United States Constitution is  
8 interpreted. And a court has said in that case that he  
9 actually couldn't do that. That they had the right to  
10 actually march as part of their First Amendment right  
11 to march with a mask.

12          AUDIENCE: Is there a ruling in Connecticut?

13          MR. BAILEY: That's a new law in the state of  
14 Connecticut. We don't have a ruling in Connecticut.

15          AUDIENCE: So there's been no challenge.

16          MR. BAILEY: No. Not at all. There has not  
17 been.

18          AUDIENCE: If Wallingford made the arrest,  
19 then there would be an opportunity.

20          MR. BAILEY: But as Mr. Robinson said, you  
21 have to have a violation. He did not do anything but  
22 stand there. If he violated it, if he struck, spit,  
23 racial or anything, we have an enhanced penalty for  
24 wearing a mask.

25          AUDIENCE: He did all those. I was standing

1 next to Jesse.

2 (Crosstalk.)

3 BOARD MEMBER JOHNSON: Mr. Weinstein.

4 Mr. WEINSTEIN: Just one question. Do you  
5 agree with Mr. Robinson's statement that there are no  
6 Connecticut statutes which make violations of civil  
7 rights by anyone and especially police officers a crime  
8 in the state of Connecticut? That there is no redress  
9 except to go to the feds?

10 And let me tell you. The one I read about --

11 MR. BAILEY: That's not what I said.

12 MR. WEINSTEIN: And let me tell. The one I  
13 read about was -- Robinson, who was whacked in the head  
14 with a blackjack six times until the blackjack handle  
15 broke. And that's what Connelly characterized as a  
16 civil rights violation that had to be a federal  
17 problem.

18 But I'd like to know.

19 MR. BAILEY: I don't think that's what Mr.  
20 Robinson said either. And I'm not going to speak for  
21 him.

22 (Crosstalk.)

23 BOARD MEMBER JOHNSON: Please. One person  
24 speaking at a time.

25 MR. ROBINSON: Let me try to be more clear.



1           There are laws called the civil rights laws.  
2 Those are federal laws. So when someone says there's a  
3 civil rights law violation, that means they violated  
4 that statute. In the state, you look at different  
5 kinds of activity. So, for instance, if a police  
6 officer hits someone in the head, you would prosecute  
7 him for assault or battery or whatever, murder -- if  
8 they died, for a murder. That's what you would call  
9 it.

10           MR. WEINSTEIN: Unless you call it civil  
11 rights, and then it's your problem.

12           MR. ROBINSON: What we're saying is that I'm  
13 going to look at that if the feds are going to look at  
14 that. We would look at it under the civil rights laws  
15 because I can't prosecute somebody for assault. There  
16 isn't a federal crime called assault.

17           MR. WEINSTEIN: My question is do you think  
18 there are no laws in Connecticut that make it a crime  
19 to violate people's civil rights?

20           MR. BAILEY: No, I don't. I think there's  
21 federal law. And we have state laws where you have  
22 assault. And before I leave -- and I have to leave  
23 because I have another appointment up in Hartford and  
24 you know this traffic better than I do. I stay up in  
25 Hartford. I don't try to come down this way very

1 often. And this is not in any way, shape or form --  
2 and I want to say something very plain here.

3           Mr. Robinson and I have worked together for  
4 the last three years. He is probably one of the finest  
5 U.S. Attorneys I've worked with in 25 years. And his  
6 office seeks out injustice. And I will not take  
7 criticism --

8           MR. ROBINSON: Jack, don't defend me. That's  
9 not your job.

10           MR. BAILEY: Well, I don't have to defend you.

11           BOARD MEMBER JOHNSON: One last question.

12           AUDIENCE: What can we do to alleviate the  
13 subjectivity in bail setting because as Director of  
14 Religious Services for the Department of Corrections, I  
15 find out that the same crime, if a person has a Redding  
16 address or a Wilton address, as opposed to at one time  
17 a Pennick address. There seems to be a lot of  
18 subjectivity in administering it.

19           MR. BAILEY: That's a very good question. And  
20 there shouldn't be. I would work with you to have you  
21 have a meeting with Judge Newby, the Chief Court  
22 Administrative Judge who assigns all the judges in the  
23 state and he works with the judges. And he has a chief  
24 criminal judge at every meeting. And bring these to  
25 his attention. And he will address them. And I will

1 work with you on that. Okay?

2 Thank you. And I apologize for leaving.

3 BOARD MEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Bailey.

4 At this time I'd like to introduce Hector  
5 Torres, Acting Chief of Police for the city of  
6 Bridgeport.

7 Chief Torres, please.

8 MR. TORRES: Thank you. As introduced, I am  
9 Hector Torres. I am currently your Acting Chief of  
10 Police for the city of Bridgeport. I've been in an  
11 acting capacity since July of last year. I took the  
12 test last week and I'm hoping to come out one, two or  
13 three. And the results of the test should be by next  
14 Thursday.

15 After sitting in here and listening to the  
16 speakers, and I've listened very attentively and I've  
17 taken copious notes. And I don't want to go down on  
18 each and every one issue. What I'm going to say is I  
19 am your chief. We're the city of Bridgeport Police  
20 Department. We're your police department.

21 We stand committed to work with you on these  
22 issues that were raised and I took, like I said,  
23 several notes. And I hope that we can continue to  
24 dialogue afterwards.

25 Statements were made that community policing

1 is not working in Bridgeport. I'm committed to make it  
2 work, whatever it takes, working together. Because  
3 that's what community policing is, the police and the  
4 community.

5 Reverend Cook, I understand the concerns that  
6 were raised, especially PT and Trumbull Gardens. I  
7 make no excuses for my police officers because we were  
8 challenged by the community when I took over the office  
9 to do something about the crime in the city of  
10 Bridgeport.

11 Crime trends have been lowered and lowered  
12 and lowered. And right now we stand at six homicides  
13 in the city of Bridgeport. Last year at this time we  
14 had 16.

15 Can we do it better? Can we work with the  
16 community? Can we try to keep the same trends working  
17 so that we don't lose any more of our children? I  
18 think we can. Can we do it where our community is not  
19 fearful of the police, which is what's stated? I think  
20 we can. And I'm committed to making that dialogue so  
21 that we can make that happen.

22 I'm not going to go down the whole list here.  
23 Carolyn Nah, she and I have worked and we have a good  
24 working relationship together as President of the  
25 NAACP. And the statement was made by her that the

1 blacks, the African-Americans, they left the South for  
2 a better life in the North. My family came from Puerto  
3 Rico and we were committed to coming here to make a  
4 better life for ourselves.

5           Have we reached that better life yet? I  
6 don't think so. Can we work on it? I think we can.  
7 I'm committed, Carolyn, to work with the NAACP. You  
8 know that I've assigned a police officer, one of my  
9 detectives and one of my sergeants whenever you have a  
10 regular meeting there to try to get to the root causes.

11           If we have rogue police officers in our  
12 midst, I am committed to identifying them and removing  
13 them from the police department. And that's my  
14 commitment to the public here.

15           Police officers that go around and lie and  
16 falsify and make illegal statements to put people in  
17 jail, I don't want them on this job and I know you as  
18 the community don't want them on this job. And I've  
19 worked many, many, many years with attorney Weinstein.  
20 He's sued the police department many, many times. And  
21 I've been on different sides of the issue.

22           Growing up in the city of Bridgeport, as  
23 David Daniels, my sergeant indicated. I'm a member of  
24 the Bridgeport Guardians which sued the Bridgeport  
25 Police Department. I'm still a member of the

1 Bridgeport Guardians and I will never give up that  
2 membership for no reason whatsoever.

3 I'm committed to removing any detective,  
4 removing any police officer, detective, sergeant or  
5 upper management personnel that is not committed to do  
6 the right thing with the city of Bridgeport, the  
7 citizens of the city of Bridgeport.

8 I'm going to sit here and finish up the  
9 dialogue and I know we have an open forum, so that's my  
10 statement.

11 Thank you.

12 BOARD MEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you very much,  
13 chief.

14 At this point I'd like to invite the folks  
15 who were on the earlier panel to please come up to the  
16 front of the room. We're going to have now an open  
17 forum of questions, questions initially originating  
18 from the members of our Committee who may have a number  
19 of questions to ask.

20 If you could come around in kind of a semi-  
21 circle here so everybody is visible. If that's  
22 possible, that would be very helpful.

23 I apologize for the cramped quarters here.

24 AUDIENCE: I just want to make one brief  
25 statement.

1           BOARD MEMBER JOHNSON:    Again, please, in  
2 order, let me just open this up for questions initially  
3 and initially questions from our Committee.  And then  
4 we'll more than welcome questions from folks here as  
5 well as long as time permits this afternoon.

6           So starting with the members of the  
7 Committee.

8           CHAIRMAN MACY:  Yes.  I have one question for  
9 Chief Torres.

10           Last year, maybe it was a year and a half ago  
11 we came here, chief, and I mentioned this to you  
12 before.  You came and spoke on behalf of the former  
13 police chief.  They weren't your words necessarily.  
14 They were words representing him.

15           And what I would like to know -- you stated a  
16 few things.  What I'd like to know stated in your words  
17 and your policies, presuming you get elected chief of  
18 police, what do you see is the one, two, three things  
19 that you would like to see accomplished.  A better  
20 relationship, as some of the other speakers said,  
21 especially Mr. Walsh, between the community and the  
22 police.

23           MR. TORRES:  I took the test last week and  
24 what I did was ask them to repeat the question.

25           Our relationship, as Marty Walsh pointed out,

1 the Bridgeport police, the relationship with our  
2 community has to be nurtured constantly. We can't sit  
3 on our laurels and say that because we have six  
4 homicides we're doing great. You know, only six  
5 homicides. We're doing great things. That's only half  
6 of the equation.

7           While we're arresting people and putting  
8 people away, the issue was brought up about education  
9 in the city. There's a direct correlation between the  
10 way we educate our kids in the city and what's  
11 happening to them now and they end up in jail. I know  
12 that.

13           And yes, there has to be more dialogue  
14 between the Board of Education, the community and the  
15 police department so that we can get off this sending  
16 our young children to jail. I mean, they're graduating  
17 from our penal institutions. That's the higher  
18 education of choice right now for our young kids. We  
19 have to get away from that.

20           Can the Bridgeport Police Department, can any  
21 police department be part of that? I think we can.  
22 I'm committed right now with the resources that I have  
23 right now. One of the first things that I did when I  
24 took office last July, in August I appointed six SRO's,  
25 school resource officers. And I placed them into the



1 school system. That's on top of the five officers that  
2 I had already in the system.

3 Did I do it because I was afraid that I would  
4 get a backlash from the community or from anywhere?

5 No. I did it because I had a sense of community and I  
6 knew that putting police officers in the school, not to  
7 be boogeymen, not to be there to be whipping people for  
8 the school administrators, but to be there for the kids  
9 to help them understand that police officers are good  
10 people as well to be role models, like my sergeant  
11 here. To be role models for them so that we can get  
12 off of a them and us situation. And that's one of the  
13 commitments that I have that I'm sticking by.

14 And if appointed, I will commit more  
15 resources to that endeavor, putting them more into the  
16 education side of this equation, not more into the law  
17 enforcement side of the equation but to the education  
18 side.

19 I'm looking forward to being more proactive  
20 in problem solving. Yes, we are putting more people  
21 away. I don't want to put more people away. When we  
22 had that situation on Stratford Avenue, everybody said  
23 it's the Bloody Fifth and people are getting killed  
24 left and right over there, I could have just said let's  
25 continue the thing and every time somebody gets killed

1 we'll roll up and we'll scoop them up and we'll take  
2 them away. We committed resources to that. We tried  
3 to find the root causes to the problem.

4 If you look at Stratford Avenue today now we  
5 haven't had a homicide there in how long. Okay.

6 VOICE: Two years.

7 MR. TORRES: Two years. We want to commit to  
8 real problem solving, not just get on the bandwagon and  
9 go 911 all the time. And this is my commitment.

10 I think this is what Marty Walsh was saying  
11 is that it's a collaborative effort. And working  
12 together, that's what we want to do.

13 BOARD MEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chief.

14 MR. CHUN: I would like to make one comment  
15 and end it with a question if I may. The observation  
16 or comment is I think I'd like to take this opportunity  
17 to express my and our Committee's appreciation for the  
18 public officials to be here with us. They didn't have  
19 to be. They're not under subpoena, so they didn't have  
20 to.

21 As you know, there are many public officials  
22 who didn't show up. And I think it's a tribute to  
23 their willingness and commitment to public service.  
24 And I recognize that and thank you for being here.

25 Mr. Bailey is not here but I'll tell him that

1 later on.

2           And I think that should be sending a message  
3 to the public in general that the public officials who  
4 are today with us are not the kind of public officials  
5 who are subject to or involved in the kind of negative  
6 portrayal. It seems to me they are committed public  
7 servants who can come and who we can appeal to and who  
8 we can talk to. That I think should mean something.  
9 So I just hope you understand the meaning of that.

10           My question. There are many, but I think in  
11 the interest of time and fairness to other members and  
12 the public I'll just choose one question.

13           This is for Chief Torres.

14           We have been hearing many, many allegations  
15 as to why the public department has been ineffective.  
16 And the reasons seem to be numerous. And my question,  
17 if I may phrase it, is something like for a new  
18 incoming police chief, what would be the stumbling  
19 blocks, assuming the best intentions on his or her part  
20 that the public can support or do so that that police  
21 chief can do a better and more effective job.

22           You've got the Police Commissioners. We've  
23 got the mayor or the lack of community support or  
24 whatever. There are many kinds of barriers that may  
25 stand in the way. And if you can elaborate or point to

1 something that's maybe conceivable or perhaps possible  
2 barriers or stumbling blocks that limit you in a way.

3 MR. TORRES: You had to ask that now; right?

4 (Laughter.)

5 As a police chief there are many, many  
6 considerations that I have to take under advisement.  
7 In dealing with the community, I get lots and lots of  
8 calls to eliminate criminal activity in that community.  
9 And when we take enforcement action, we get calls  
10 saying that we've overreacted. Be that as it may.  
11 Maybe we do.

12 It's not because we go in there and we want  
13 to just kick ass and take no names, but we honestly  
14 feel that we're doing the right thing. And we're under  
15 mandate from the community to eliminate crime.

16 I'm also under pressure from the political  
17 side of this, which is the elected officials. I get  
18 calls from their offices because they get calls from  
19 their constituents. And I have to appease that dragon,  
20 so to speak.

21 Police officers are not superhuman beings.  
22 We are the product of society. We come from the same  
23 gene pool that everybody else comes from. We're not  
24 501 genes. We're all the same people. And as you  
25 indicated, we come from the same race of people. We're

1 all one people.

2           Given what we have or what police chiefs have  
3 to work with -- and it was brought up that we don't  
4 have a residency rule. We have union constraints to  
5 deal with. We have a whole host of things that chiefs  
6 have to deal with and have to cope with. We're doing  
7 the best we can with the resources that we have.

8           I would like as a chief of police to have  
9 more resources available to me. But then again, the  
10 elected officials have to answer to the taxpayer. So  
11 you have to be very careful about budgets.

12           I'd only make the resources right now the  
13 most efficient and get the most bang for our buck.  
14 That's what we're asking chiefs of police to do; how to  
15 better manage your resources.

16           When I go before the appropriations  
17 committees for the city of Bridgeport -- and I did the  
18 other night, and I was there until about 11:00 at  
19 night. And I asked for equipment that would make us  
20 better police officers and I got shot down. Then I  
21 have to turn to the community and ask the community to  
22 take my fight back to city hall. And that's what I'll  
23 be doing in the next coming weeks.

24           So, in a nutshell, police chiefs deal with a  
25 lot of issues and a lot of legal issues have to be

1 decided in a quick moment. And then later on, people  
2 sit around and Monday morning quarterback and take  
3 everything apart.

4 But for the most part, police officers come  
5 in, they want to do their jobs, they want to get in and  
6 they want to get out. And then they want to go home,  
7 whether their home is in Bridgeport or in suburbia.  
8 And we want to do it efficiently and we want to do it  
9 expediently.

10 BOARD MEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chief.

11 VICE CHAIRMAN WHARTON: I've listened to  
12 responses from the first panel and second panel made up  
13 of the citizens and community leaders and advocates  
14 surrounding policing. But it seems as though the one  
15 issue that I'm concerned about is the ability to make a  
16 complaint. And I would like to address the question to  
17 attorneys Weinstein and also Robinson, relating some  
18 type of program that could be in place. I'm not going  
19 to say it would be similar to a witness protection  
20 program but how someone who makes a complaint will feel  
21 that they're able to make it without certain reprisals.

22 And this is not something -- this could be  
23 typical of any community. But what suggestions,  
24 strategies and solutions would either of you be able to  
25 share at this time with the community where they may

1 have complaints and they have been frightened to make  
2 them.

3 MR. WEINSTEIN: The good news is that the  
4 practice of threatening people with arrest for making  
5 false statements if they did file a complaint has got  
6 to stop. Under the latter days of Joe Walsh, that was  
7 standard practice. That, at least, has stopped.

8 It takes a lot of restraint because I'm down  
9 in the trenches every day listening to the pain and  
10 outrage of people because of the problems of proof.

11 I chase 10 cases for every one I take.  
12 Things are that bad. People who aren't out there don't  
13 realize how bad they are.

14 Filing a complaint is no longer a problem.  
15 Oh, you can file a piece of paper all right. There are  
16 still a few people who will give you a hard time. I  
17 always sent at least two people down as bodyguards.  
18 Eighteen months for Internal Affairs to respond.  
19 Because of the volume of complaints we can't respond.  
20 You know how that is. We've discussed this in federal  
21 court.

22 There must be adequate resources so that  
23 there can be a credible effort to handle civilian  
24 complaints brought to Internal Affairs. And I'm not  
25 exaggerating. From where I sit, putting your complaint

1 in a bottle and throwing it out on Long Island Sound  
2 would be as effective as filing a complaint with  
3 Internal Affairs.

4 That's why when somebody said they had a  
5 tape, I said give it to Mr. Robinson because by the  
6 time John Sturdivant got around to it the machinery to  
7 play it would probably be obsolete.

8 Now, that is a shame. I invite, I beg, I  
9 urge you to join those of us who are pending with the  
10 appointment of a special master in federal court. Tell  
11 us what you feel. We would like to have a federal  
12 judge for it. If they keep it a secret, then you could  
13 blame the federal judge when you have to go to the  
14 politicians.

15 But right now the status quo is harming the  
16 majority of decent police officers. I don't have to  
17 tell you how bad things are. Wrong apartment searches.  
18 You have to beg for equipment. And for crying out  
19 loud, I just hit the city for \$92,000 in the Colombine  
20 case for a wrong apartment search. And nobody thinks  
21 there's anything the matter with that. That's  
22 nonsense.

23 There's no way one person can correct these  
24 matters. To make it credible, you've got to join it.  
25 There's a wonderful mechanism available to us at this



1 moment pending before the federal court under Judge  
2 Shacklin. I beg you, instead of stonewalling, join us.  
3 Then you can complain to the federal judge.

4           In the meantime, all I can tell people is  
5 keep filing complaints and hoping that someone takes  
6 them seriously. I know how difficult it for Mr.  
7 Robinson. He cannot become the Internal Affairs  
8 department for every police department in the state.  
9 It's not possible. There are problems of federalism.  
10 There are limitations on what's going on with the  
11 present Supreme Court. It isn't just the violence  
12 against women act. It casts a long and terrifying  
13 shadow.

14           Every single bit of civil rights legislation  
15 passed since the Civil War is now in jeopardy because  
16 neither the Commerce Clause nor the Equal Protection  
17 Clause is going to be held to apply. A massive effort  
18 is going to be made to impress that.

19           So, why the state says civil rights  
20 violations are a federal problem -- and his hands are  
21 tied. It's going to get back to local communities.  
22 And sooner or later it's going to start making sense.

23           BOARD MEMBER JOHNSON: Those asking questions  
24 and those responding, please be as cogent or brief as  
25 possible so that everybody has an opportunity.

1           And attorney Robinson, you were asked to  
2 respond, as well.

3           MR. ROBINSON: Yes. It's a very difficult  
4 problem when people feel that they can't make a  
5 complaint without some sort of reprisal or act being  
6 brought against them.

7           And it's hard for me to address situations  
8 outside of my world. I mean, the federal world. So I  
9 talk about complaints brought to the FBI or to my  
10 office.

11           And the only thing I can say to people -- and  
12 it's hard on me. Ultimately, you have to kind of trust  
13 a little bit -- is that we protect our witnesses.

14           VICE CHAIRMAN WHARTON: How?

15           MR. ROBINSON: Well, it depends on what's  
16 necessary in any given circumstance.

17           Ultimately in a case that's being brought  
18 there's a witness protection program. That's a rather  
19 extreme thing. It can be something like literally  
20 protecting people for a period of time with officers or  
21 agents. It can be moving families to another living  
22 circumstance. All of that is generally speaking sort  
23 of extreme. But if necessary, can be done.

24           But those are sort of the extreme  
25 circumstances. What we find often is that people

1 having felt frustration from trying to address problems  
2 with the local police department feel that they can't  
3 bring a complaint to us because some of the  
4 frustrations that they felt will also apply if they  
5 come into the federal system.

6           And it's hard. So what we constantly do -- I  
7 mean, what our office -- and Mr. Weinstein has met with  
8 me in my office over cases and corresponded with me  
9 over others. What we need is for sort of those people  
10 to come in and actually talk to us. And once that  
11 happens, we can take measures to make sure that people  
12 are protected, whatever that means in a given  
13 circumstance.

14           I don't want to say to people the minute you  
15 come in my office and make a complaint we're going to  
16 move you to another city or we're going to put you in  
17 the witness protection program. That's not going to  
18 happen. But if there is a real danger -- it's also why  
19 from my perspective prosecuting the Pillar case was so  
20 important because that is a case that went to the wild,  
21 crazy extreme of witnesses actually being killed. And  
22 if anybody were to walk away from that, from my  
23 perspective if we were to walk away from that, any --  
24 first of all, from a very personal how I make cases,  
25 I'd never make a case because nobody would ever come

1 forward.

2           And that kind of action, in my view, needed  
3 to be addressed significantly and there was a massive  
4 effort on the part of both the Bridgeport Police  
5 Department, the FBI, my office, the state's attorney's  
6 office here in Connecticut to try to address that.

7           So, we do what we can do but what we need are  
8 sort of -- and it's hard to say to people, you know,  
9 trust us. Come in my door, talk to us and give  
10 theories. If there's some attempt at reprisal or  
11 there's some danger there, we will help you work  
12 through how to deal with that.

13           BOARD MEMBER JOHNSON: Please, one person at a  
14 time, if you would. And at this point, Ros, you have a  
15 question.

16           BOARD MEMBER BERMAN: Yes. For Chief Torres.

17           Are there any regulations or should there be  
18 regulations -- I believe there should -- on the use of  
19 firearms by the police?

20           MR. TORRES: Yes, there are. We have a use of  
21 force policy in the city of Bridgeport which is  
22 consistent with the state's use of force statutes. We  
23 comply with it.

24           We also have a citizens complaint process.  
25 You heard the chief state's attorney Bailey indicated

1 that any time there's a police officer involved  
2 shooting there will be now a group of people that are  
3 at that level to be asked to investigate it. It will  
4 be removed from the local level if it has to be.

5 So there are guidelines. There are systems  
6 in place. Yes.

7 BOARD MEMBER BERMAN: But if a shot has to be  
8 fired, and I assume sometimes a shot has to be fired,  
9 even at a non-vital area?

10 MR. TORRES: No. In fact, that's one of the  
11 things. That's one of the equipments that I was asked -  
12 - I went before my city council the other night to ask  
13 for was a firearms training simulator. It's like a big  
14 game machine and it has a big digital screen and it put  
15 simulations on when to shoot and shoot, don't shoot  
16 situations. That makes police officers more proficient  
17 in shooting situations.

18 When we train the police officer to take his  
19 weapon out and point that weapon, it's because all bets  
20 are off. This is your last resort. You don't shoot to  
21 shoot for his toe. You shoot to eliminate the problem.  
22 And the reason you take that gun out is because your  
23 life is in danger or someone else's life is in danger.  
24 So you don't shoot to wound. You shoot to stop the  
25 problem.

1           BOARD MEMBER JOHNSON: Seeing no other  
2 questions from the panel, at this point we'll open it  
3 up.

4           I'm sorry.

5           BOARD MEMBER TIRU: My question is to Mr.  
6 Robinson. You mentioned in your statement before no  
7 evidence, no case. And you also mentioned just a few  
8 minutes ago that there has to be trust. What steps  
9 would you suggest for this community to open that to  
10 have a communication with them to educate the community  
11 about what do you consider to be good evidence so you  
12 could have a case.

13           What can you suggest to start earning and  
14 gaining that trust so you can work in collaboration  
15 with the community complaints and then your  
16 communication will be effective and not something that  
17 will be confrontational but something that could be  
18 effective to the community and productive to the  
19 community.

20           MR. ROBINSON: That's a harder question to  
21 answer than one might think. The approach that I've  
22 tried to take in my time as a U.S. Attorney is to  
23 perform complete and thorough investigation when  
24 matters come to me.

25           I have an office of attorneys that cover the

1 entire state. If you took the six biggest cities alone  
2 in this state, I have three criminal assistants per  
3 city. Not a lot. That's not how we break up my  
4 office. You know, these three in this city.

5           The way I've tried to do it is to the extent  
6 I hear about issues, issues are brought to my  
7 attention, to do a full court press investigation. So  
8 as I say, when I heard -- because I live in  
9 Connecticut. But when the rumor is generally accepted  
10 that there's profiling in Trumbull, that was all I  
11 needed to do an investigation.

12           When some individuals bring issues -- Mr.  
13 Weinstein and others -- I will look at them. What I  
14 can't always do as much as communities would want me to  
15 do and as much as I might even want to do it, is spend  
16 all the time that one would want to spend in dialogue.

17           And I spend a tremendous amount of my time  
18 doing that. But the way I try to do it is to try to  
19 sort of do my job, to do it well. And I do get to have  
20 an opinion about that, even though people may disagree  
21 with me. And to let that be the example that people  
22 see.

23           It's hard because what happens often in this  
24 state is what goes on in another city, no one cares  
25 about and so they don't take the example of that. But

1 in my two years as U.S. Attorney we've prosecuted more  
2 police officers than any other U.S. Attorney in the  
3 history of this state.

4 That's not a mistake. That's because I take  
5 this seriously. But it's officers in Hartford. It's  
6 officers in other places where we have had complaints.  
7 So when a prostitute walks into my office and says  
8 they're forcing me to have sex and I don't want to do  
9 that, that's a complaint. And that's how I get -- now,  
10 I don't have the ability to stand in Norwalk and  
11 Stamford and Bridgeport and New Haven and Hartford and  
12 Waterbury and in East Hartford and all the cities sort  
13 of generating complaints. But to the extent that  
14 people come in to us, we take that very seriously. And  
15 I try to let my actions show that.

16 I try to let the thoroughness of the work  
17 that I do sort of speak to that. And then hopefully  
18 that will encourage people that they can bring issues  
19 to us. But it's hard.

20 BOARD MEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you.

21 We're finished with the panel at this point.  
22 The gentleman in the white shirt, then Mrs. Nah.

23 VOICE: That's okay. Let her go first.

24 BOARD MEMBER JOHNSON: You had gotten up at  
25 the very beginning, sir, so I'm coming back to you if



1 you'd still like to make a presentation.

2 VOICE: (Off mike.)

3 BOARD MEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Mrs. Nah, you're  
4 next.

5 MS. NAH: I'd like to make a statement and a  
6 question to attorney Robinson.

7 When Mr. Weinstein -- (off mike) -- he said  
8 one America. And when we begin to see ourselves as  
9 that then we will begin to make a change.

10 I used an illustration and she asked a  
11 pertinent question on protection. It's not dissing the  
12 police department when you file a complaint that you  
13 have to fear your life. It's across the board in the  
14 city of Bridgeport.

15 I have a young lady in this room right now  
16 who just got fired from her job because she was  
17 friendly with somebody that was alleged to be an enemy  
18 to the city of Bridgeport. And somebody who had a  
19 contract with the city said I can no longer have you  
20 work with me because you are a friend of an enemy of  
21 the city and I have to let you go. And I have a  
22 problem with that.

23 She's the young lady walking around taking  
24 pictures. She doesn't mind me saying that.

25 And that's across the board. Threatening

1 people. Taking people's jobs. Locking up people's  
2 kids. And when someone comes to your office, your  
3 opening remarks were I don't go by hearsay, brother,  
4 sister, anybody. The world that I live in, you have to  
5 produce facts.

6 In the Migilla case, you haven't produced any  
7 facts in that case. You heard all -- and it's all  
8 hearsay. You're convicted him 100 years in federal  
9 prison for drug distribution but he did not get  
10 arrested for drugs. He got arrested for allegedly  
11 hiring his brother to kill somebody else but he got  
12 convicted on a drug charge in your court for 105 years  
13 when drugs was not the issue.

14 You didn't produce any facts in that case.  
15 It was brother, sister, girlfriend, friends and  
16 everything. All hearsay. He never got arrested for  
17 drugs. He never sold to a federal agent. We're  
18 watching the case.

19 And I just wondered. You've got to be  
20 careful when you make those remarks. And I say it  
21 because there's a lot of pain in this room today.

22 MR. ROBINSON: I hear you. But let me  
23 straighten something out.

24 MS. NAH: Let me finish. As an attorney and  
25 as a representative of the state, you keep saying my

1 world. We are Americans. And Wein has a book that I  
2 want to borrow. One America. We don't live in the  
3 Soviet Union but people are scared to death.

4 Burt Weinstein and I have spent all day in  
5 trying to get signatures for things that people say,  
6 and they were afraid. They won't sign anything. And  
7 you sent people down to the NAACP to do an  
8 investigation on profiling. People weren't ready.  
9 They said I'm not signing anything. I'm scared.

10 And so the repercussions. When you've got a  
11 woman out there don't have a place to work and people  
12 are scared to death and we come to you and you're  
13 operating on hearsay but you said you don't. You can't  
14 afford to now.

15 Please clear that up for me.

16 MR. ROBINSON: A couple of things. One is,  
17 Russell Pilar was first arrested by the federal  
18 government on drug charges and then arrested by the  
19 state for the murder. We prosecuted our case first.  
20 So he was arrested on drug charges.

21 MS. NAH: (Off mike.)

22 MR.. ROBINSON: In court -- I mean, we may be  
23 talking about different things when you say hearsay and  
24 I say it.

25 MS. NAH: (Off mike.)

1           MR. ROBINSON: Can I just try to have a moment  
2 to respond?

3           Hearsay is not allowed in federal court. What  
4 someone can stand up in court and say is I was in a  
5 room with Mr. Robinson. He gave me the drugs and I  
6 sold them to somebody else. That's not hearsay. And  
7 that is credible evidence.

8           I didn't say earlier that I need facts. I  
9 said I need evidence. Evidence which can be someone.

10          In fact, what I'm pleading for is someone  
11 coming in and saying it happened to me or I was there  
12 when it happened. That's evidence. That evidence  
13 would be admissible in court. That's what I need  
14 though.

15          If I don't have that, I've got nothing. I  
16 can't stand up in court and say judge, I heard this  
17 goes on in this community and therefore this police  
18 officer or police department, individuals should be  
19 prosecuted. There needs to be someone who stands up and  
20 says -- and I don't minimize how difficult that is for  
21 someone to come in and stand up and do it.

22          But I mean -- when I say my world, I'm  
23 talking about the world of the courtroom, the world  
24 that I get to do something about. The rest of the  
25 world I don't get to do anything about. My power is in

1 the courtroom and the investigations I can make happen.  
2 But what happens is that we do have the ability to what  
3 I think you're calling hearsay. That is, somebody gets  
4 to stand up and say I worked with Steve Robinson for  
5 the last two years and he used to give me X amount of  
6 drugs today to sell. I go sell them and I give the  
7 money back to Mr. Robinson or we split the money. And  
8 then that evidence is put before a grand jury first but  
9 a jury of 12, and the jury can say I believe it or I  
10 don't.

11 If that's all the evidence I have, whether  
12 it's Russell Pilar or Hartford police officers, if  
13 that's all the evidence I have and it meets the  
14 standards, I will prosecute it. If it doesn't meet the  
15 standards, I won't.

16 It isn't helpful for me to say -- and you  
17 don't know me well. I take this very seriously. When  
18 people came to me and said this police department is  
19 bad -- and there have been four of them that I've  
20 looked at -- I go and look at it.

21 I understand when we did come to your  
22 organization and others that said the way this works is  
23 I need someone to come in and tell me or I understand  
24 that everyone accepts that that's what happened. But  
25 people are scared. And I understand that. And to the

1 extent that someone comes to me and says that we can  
2 talk about how do we help that situation, how do we  
3 make it better, no one ever said that to me. No one  
4 ever came to me and said there are people that want to  
5 talk that are afraid.

6           What happened is we went out and everywhere  
7 we went, we didn't get witnesses. We didn't get --

8           VOICE: (Off mike.)

9           MR. ROBINSON: I understand that.

10          VOICE: (Off mike.)

11          MR. ROBINSON: There's probably  
12 miscommunication between the people who are talking to  
13 you and your constituents in that that information that  
14 there are people who are afraid to tell you about it,  
15 they don't understand that because there are things  
16 that we can do. But what the came back to you and said  
17 we nobody's talking to us. And I said, well, go here.  
18 Try here. Talk to these people. And we constantly  
19 went back and did try to find people who could tell me  
20 the story, who can say it happened to me, it happened  
21 to this person so you can talk to them.

22           I won't talk to you about all the  
23 investigations that we've had, but that's the dialogue  
24 that we need to have. And it's a hard one. But in the  
25 world that I have influence - when I say that, I mean

1 the courtroom. I need that. I need a document. I  
2 need somebody to say it happened. I can't just stand  
3 up and say, judge, take my word for it. It happened,  
4 whether I believe it actually happened.

5 I can believe it until from now until the day  
6 I die but if I don't have someone who's willing to say  
7 it happened to me. There's nothing I can do.

8 BOARD MEMBER JOHNSON: First the gentleman at  
9 the podium and then Reverend.

10 AUDIENCE: First of all, we're in America.  
11 We're not in South Africa.

12 BOARD MEMBER JOHNSON: Sir, hold on for a  
13 moment. Introduce yourself first for the record.

14 AUDIENCE: I'll do that. My name is Cecil  
15 Young. I am a community activist, a community activist  
16 that has been involved in this city for the last 34  
17 years. I was born in the Public Housing Authority  
18 project, lived in it for 4 years. I am an elected city  
19 sheriff. I am in charge of police details in our  
20 public housing project.

21 I am concerned about what goes on in this  
22 city. I've heard a lot being said here today. I heard  
23 a lot being said here yesterday.

24 My point is this. What happened to the --  
25 are a disgrace and a shame. We all know that. What

1. happened to anybody that's willing to come forward to  
2 testify on anybody about anybody committing any kind of  
3 crime is a shame but knowing that they have to come  
4 forward with the thought of knowing that they may be  
5 killed because they wanted to be a good citizen.  
6 Because they wanted to be a good American in terms of  
7 making sure that justice is done here.

8           We're doing nothing but violating the rights  
9 and the law that goes, the injustice that goes on in  
10 our community. And I get very aggravated when I hear  
11 people coming to our community and we've got but so  
12 many minutes to respond to them. And people like you  
13 with power and authority should not be allowed to just  
14 come here and be just talked to and not nothing to come  
15 up with how to deal with those problems. Because  
16 you've heard them before.

17           I'm sure you heard what you heard here in  
18 Bridgeport, in New Haven, Hartford, Monroe and across  
19 the country. And I'm saying I'm not here to just talk  
20 about what is going on. I'm here to talk about what we  
21 can do to prevent it from going on. I'm here to talk  
22 about how we can prevent the Pilars or anybody for that  
23 matter allegedly taking out anybody that gets involved  
24 in any kind of crime, because it's a sad commentary  
25 that we who have the power to change things as we know



1 that they need to be changed and could be changed,  
2 because we have the power to change things.

3 Me, as an individual and black young men who  
4 grew up in public housing who are basically semi-  
5 illiterate who have achieved so much. And as high as  
6 I've achieved with my handicap, I am an individual who  
7 gives a damn and can back it up and not by just talk.

8 I come from a long way back. In the day when  
9 the Panthers were doing their thing, I was doing mine.  
10 We all in the '50s or the '60s were patrolling and  
11 protecting our neighborhood. And I have come a long  
12 way today and I'm proud of where I have come, from  
13 where I came from.

14 And I came here because I wanted to make a  
15 different where I live, where other people like me  
16 live. And what I did was put together a community  
17 police profile on how to make our neighborhoods safer,  
18 how to make our neighborhoods the kind of neighborhoods  
19 that we want to live in, the kind of neighborhood that  
20 I grew up in PT Barnum.

21 We grew up in public housing. We didn't have  
22 this outright disrespect. We didn't have this outright  
23 I'm going to do what I want to do and stand on the  
24 corner and do it to you if you say something. We  
25 didn't have that. We didn't have it because we had

1 people that gave a damn and would not allow it to go  
2 on.

3           Our problem is today we've got people with  
4 power, people in authority that don't give a damn about  
5 what goes on in our neighborhoods. That is my major  
6 problem. And because we lack the knowledge, lack the  
7 know-how to make these people accountable to what goes  
8 on in our neighborhoods, we continue finding ourselves  
9 coming back and forth about what can we do about what's  
10 going on.

11           We know what needs to be done. At least I  
12 do. And if you don't know, give me a few minutes and  
13 I'll tell you how to do it. And I don't care what  
14 neighborhood it's in, PT Barnum, the north end, the  
15 south end or the east end, anywhere else in this city.  
16 I can back up what I'm talking about.

17           As a black person, as a ghetto person, as an  
18 uneducated person who would like to think I have a  
19 masters degree in ghetto ecology which comes from the  
20 eye of the storm, which comes from living what I'm  
21 talking about. I've been locked up before for dealing  
22 drugs. I've been locked up for being involved in gangs  
23 and fighting police. I've come a long way. And for  
24 the last seven years, as quiet as it's kept, I put  
25 together a profile on police, not just by what I say or

1 do, but I also interviewed people who live in Green  
2 Homes Apartment, which is right up the street from  
3 police headquarters, a project that was infected with  
4 gangbanging, drug dealing and a whole lot of wildness  
5 that was going on 24 seven.

6 Yes. We still have a little bit of drug  
7 problem but I'll bet you 10 to one you can't ride up on  
8 it unless you get out of that car and spend time to  
9 fight it. You won't find it. Why? Because I have the  
10 power to deal with the so-called racist so-called cops.  
11 Some of these same cops that I had the power to  
12 supervise may be a little bit racist. Maybe they're  
13 even all of the above. But the bottom line was when  
14 you come to work for me, you'd better to as I say, as I  
15 want you to do, whether you like it or not, if you be  
16 black or white.

17 And let me tell you something, you all. I  
18 caught hell trying to get black officers to get out of  
19 their car to patrol our neighborhoods. I caught hell  
20 trying to get Puerto Rican officers to get out of their  
21 car to talk to people like me and you, and white  
22 officers as well. And I'm not just talking about  
23 something I can't back up.

24 If you don't like to get on a bus and come  
25 with me to Green Homes, come with me to the Forest

1 Apartments and see what I'm talking about. Come on and  
2 look. If you want to go talk to the residents in  
3 public housing in those highrises that we are tearing  
4 down around the country because we say they're a  
5 failure.

6 No. The projects are not a failure. We are  
7 the failures. We lack the will. We lack the desire.  
8 We lack the commitment to deal with these problems.  
9 And I can deal with it, as someone who lives in -- what  
10 is your problem. You've got the power to change  
11 anything you want.

12 We serve a God that is able and willing and  
13 all we've got to do is ask him and believe what you ask  
14 him for and go out to make it happen and it can happen.

15 I will give you these two books on community  
16 policing. I punched out today so I could be here to  
17 make sure that I won't lose my job. For seven years  
18 I've been doing community policing. For seven years  
19 I've been told don't you tell them what you're doing,  
20 knowing that I might get shot in what I'm doing. I may  
21 get killed in what I'm doing because I know that some  
22 of the people live where I live, if they get me --  
23 snooping on them, spying on them, I may get taken out.

24 But because I love where I was raised,

1 because I love the communities in which my people live,  
2 because I wanted to do something about where I live, I  
3 put my life on the line. But I said to my boss today  
4 as I've said to my boss before, here's another letter I  
5 want to give you as evidence, too, of Sergeant Gary and  
6 a number of other officers that I requested to work on  
7 my detail. And I don't know if it was recommended that  
8 I get minority officers to work with. So there's a lot  
9 that I go through to justify me being here telling you  
10 what I'm telling you today.

11 I say to everybody here today. We know that  
12 we've got a problem of racial profiling but we've also  
13 got a problem where Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Pilars, Mrs. So-  
14 and-so can't walk out of their house for fear of  
15 gunplay, where Mrs. Jones and her kids can't play in  
16 the courtyard because of gangbanging and all kind of  
17 wildness going on.

18 When I've been the one who fought to give our  
19 people to right to stand on corners, who fought to give  
20 our people the right to speak their mind, we should be  
21 behind them that are trying to save what little we have  
22 left. We can turn around our neighborhood.

23 You talked about community policing. And  
24 I'll make it short because I know you've got time and  
25 you're running out and all nine yards. And I wish some

1 day you would come back and give really quality time to  
2 tell you what's going on in our city because you need  
3 that in order to deal with it.

4           When I heard Sergeant Daniels make the  
5 statement that he made about where is community  
6 policing. It ain't been doing nothing. He's a  
7 sergeant, a person who grew up in PT Barnum. He's a  
8 sergeant, a person who knows that I've been doing what  
9 I've been doing for the last seven years. This brother  
10 who made the statement that community policing ain't  
11 been doing basically nothing. Well, community  
12 policing, the grants are about ready to run out in the  
13 next month or two. And my point is if it ain't been  
14 doing nothing for the last three years that it's been  
15 here, why haven't we dealt with that.

16           We've got to stop letting people sit in  
17 positions of authority that don't call a spade a spade.  
18 And the other thing is that we've got minority police  
19 commissioners who sit on boards that should be having  
20 the same kind of meetings you are having to make sure  
21 that what we go through in terms of police harassment,  
22 police taking advantage of us, dissing us and the whole  
23 nine yards, they should be here having these kind of  
24 meetings, making sure that we are represented in the  
25 right way.

1           There's no excuse for that. We know the  
2 political games. Our problem is that this is not our  
3 agenda. These are not our concerns. And until we as a  
4 people begin to say -- hey, hold up. (Off mike.)

5           But the bottom line is where are they at in  
6 terms of when these issues come up. Where are they at  
7 in terms of having meetings and discussions about how  
8 we can prevent this from happening.

9           Chief Torres, before he became chief of  
10 police, he helped me to make the park department one of  
11 the safest places in the city compared to what it was  
12 before. It was his involvement.

13           The mayor's aide over there, Bill Stuart and  
14 I met six years ago in the chief's office, Hector  
15 Torres and I both, to discuss how can we stop talking  
16 about what is going on and what can we do to do  
17 something about it. And I said put me in a position to  
18 do that. I work seven days a week. For the last seven  
19 years I've been working seven days a week supervising  
20 overtime police, a patrolman and a sergeant, different  
21 ones, every day for the last seven years. And a lot of  
22 them have told me sometimes Detective Redding says  
23 stick it up your ass. A lot of them told me I'm not  
24 going nowhere. A lot of them told me the whole nine  
25 yards. So I've been through it all but nevertheless I

1 stood fast.

2           And because I knew what I was doing and what  
3 needed to be done, I say to you until we do that, we'll  
4 always find ourselves having these kind of meetings,  
5 these kind of dialogues. But if you control that  
6 mayor's budget, his dollars, he will do what you want  
7 him to do whether he be black, white, Puerto Rican or  
8 Jew. You've got to make him accountable to his  
9 constituents. If you don't, we can be playing and  
10 talking about this stuff for days and days and we'll  
11 continue to do it.

12           We don't have to do that no more. Make me  
13 your liaison officer with your community police and let  
14 me show you how to do it.

15           BOARD MEMBER JOHNSON: Mr. Young, please --

16           AUDIENCE: Well, I'm just letting you know, my  
17 brother, before I finish, that I'm not just up here  
18 talking to be talking. I can back up what I'm talking  
19 about in black in white.

20           BOARD MEMBER JOHNSON: I understand that and I  
21 appreciate your submitting this material to us.

22           AUDIENCE: I hope you look at it and I hope  
23 you get something out of it.

24           BOARD MEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you very much,  
25 sir.



1            Reverend Thompson, I believe you had your  
2 hand up earlier.

3            It's been suggested, so that we can enable as  
4 many people as possible to speak, we're going to limit  
5 each speaker to three minutes. Now, I know you said a  
6 few second, but you can have three minutes if you'd  
7 like, Reverend.

8            REV. THOMPSON: I want the same as you gave  
9 Cecil.

10            (Laughter.)

11            I'm happy that you all returned to express  
12 the concerns you had last time. I only found out  
13 recently, earlier this morning, that you were here  
14 today.

15            But my concern, to be clear, is that we don't  
16 live in the same world. And I'm glad that Loretta  
17 Lynch in Brooklyn understood that when the Haitian was  
18 mistreated. The system does not represent us and it's  
19 going to be those persons who are hired to represent us  
20 have to go further than what has traditionally been  
21 acceptable.

22            This attorney knows. Police were afraid to  
23 go to work in Bridgeport. They were shot at. It's  
24 been documented. It's clearly defined.

25            As I said, we were in New Hampshire. The

1 state police across New England said to us that they're  
2 afraid to tell those officers what they can't do there.  
3 They have been doing this for 200 years.

4 I worked for city government. The city --  
5 just look at that picture. Look at the chief's budget,  
6 how much money is spent protecting police for illegal  
7 activities. City attorneys know the law. They've been  
8 doing this long enough to protect themselves.

9 You've the folk who are not protected. And  
10 any person in his position, as many of us interpret it,  
11 takes a position that you can't prove it. We've been  
12 lynched enough.

13 I stood next to Jesse. I heard the Klansmen  
14 say Jesse, go get a job. I heard him say to an elderly  
15 union man, I know your Jew son. And we will take care  
16 of him. And we had to hold him so he would not beat  
17 that Klansman literally to death. I've been there.  
18 I've been able to understand that. But I hope he  
19 understands that because we're not in the world he's  
20 in.

21 And I have publicly said on TV, in the  
22 newspaper at Trumbull. I've been stopped in Trumbull.  
23 I've been stopped in Breezeport. I've been stopped in  
24 the New Jersey Turnpike. And I can give you some more  
25 proof. And if I didn't have my police badge that the

1 mayor had given me and my -- (off mike) -- they have  
2 harassed me. And the questions are always the same.  
3 Do you live in New Jersey. I say, no, I live in my  
4 home. Do you have any guns? I pull out my gun permit.  
5 I got a gun permit because I was tired of white police  
6 stopping me asking questions. And I asked Mayor Utly.  
7 The chief helped me do it. So they don't bother me any  
8 more because they know I can legally shoot back. And I  
9 will.

10 My point again. We live in a different  
11 world. And I say again, I thank God. Loretta Lynch in  
12 Brooklyn understood. That's why police were prosecuted  
13 in Brooklyn. You can't give us the traditional system.  
14 The judicial system in America has been proven,  
15 documented, is racial, unbiased and unfair.

16 Your office has stated blacks are treated  
17 unfairly while riding no highways. There's no need in  
18 us debating that. The facts are the facts. But we  
19 hope that you will be committed to that because what we  
20 deal with it on a on a day-to-day basis is totally  
21 different from what the law -- and let me say another  
22 thing. Jesse Jackson said the government signed a  
23 civil rights law, so there is a state civil rights law.

24 Part of that civil rights law was that

1 whether they wanted to or not, had to celebrate Martin  
2 King's birthday. The mayor still refused. Nobody  
3 permits us to say wait, he's breaking the law. The  
4 state has said it. The feds have said it. But as I  
5 said, white folk in Connecticut, it's just like where I  
6 was born in North Carolina. They do what they want to  
7 do. And you who are in power can bow to that. Because  
8 I didn't come here to fight you all. I'm tired of  
9 being insulted because I took the day off. I had a lot  
10 of things to do. And I don't think that I should have  
11 to fight these folk.

12           And I tried to articulate -- and the time  
13 that I've given, I'm not on anybody's payroll for the  
14 community. And the folk you all need to talk to, you  
15 never talk to. You never talk to.

16           I begged you all to come. Nobody even  
17 contacted me that you came here. That's my point.

18           Thank you.

19           MR. ROBINSON: Can I just respond?

20           BOARD MEMBER JOHNSON: Yes, please.

21           MR. ROBINSON: Just very briefly.

22           I live in New Haven. I work in the federal  
23 court system. The ability that I have to change things  
24 comes in the federal court system. That's where I can  
25 do whatever it is I can do.

1 I worked with Zack Carter in Brooklyn,  
2 Loretta Lynch's predecessor, on their police cases.  
3 I've actually prosecuted more police officers than  
4 Loretta Lynch has. So it isn't about her versus me.  
5 What I try to do is whatever it is I can do.

6 What I tried to explain is how it is I can do  
7 what I can do. It isn't always the nicest. It isn't  
8 always the easiest to hear. I think it's actually from  
9 my perspective -- and we come differently at this. I  
10 actually think it's the most honest that I can be.  
11 Because what I'm trying to talk to you about is how it  
12 is I get to doing what you want me to do. And that is,  
13 with evidence. With people actually coming in and  
14 saying - I've said that a couple of times. I won't go  
15 through it again.

16 AUDIENCE: But that's what I want you to know,  
17 because you assume that you're doing what I want you do  
18 to. And I'll tell you that you're not. And that was  
19 my point.

20 MR. ROBINSON: I don't know you personally at  
21 all.

22 AUDIENCE: (Off mike.)

23 BOARD MEMBER JOHNSON: I hate to interrupt,  
24 and please forgive me for doing so, but we're trying to  
25 create a public record here as well, so we need to try

1 to record as much as possible so that we can have these  
2 documents to pursue what you'd like.

3 AUDIENCE: He responded to me. In all  
4 procedures, if he responded to me, I should be given  
5 the right to respond.

6 BOARD MEMBER JOHNSON: Again, everybody here  
7 needs a fair opportunity to speak and we're trying to  
8 provide that this afternoon. For the record, by the  
9 way, all of the people on the panel here, with the  
10 exception of Dr. Chung, are volunteers. We've also  
11 taken time off from our jobs to be here. So I just  
12 want folks to be aware of that. Principally, out of a  
13 personal commitment and an interest in advancing civil  
14 rights and equal opportunity for people. That's why we  
15 did this today.

16 Mr. Mintz, I guess, would be the next person  
17 to speak, please,. Then Mr. Meekins.

18 We should at some point take a break. Why  
19 don't we allow Mr. Meekins to speak and then, with your  
20 permission, we'd like to take a break.

21 AUDIENCE: Just one question I want to ask.

22 BOARD MEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. And then we'll  
23 take a 10 minute break.

24 AUDIENCE: I'm going to be brief. My question  
25 is more so in the line of a request. In the city of

1 Bridgeport there are a number of our young students at  
2 the high school and junior high school level that upon  
3 minor -- minor offenses, most of the time are taken out  
4 of their mainstream school as a result of their action  
5 and put into an environment that is defined as school  
6 but it's really just a holding pen where no learning  
7 really takes place. To that degree, the opportunity to  
8 have so many distinguished people here on the panel,  
9 would this panel be interested in working with my  
10 students over at Central High School and with the Board  
11 of Education in coming into our schools and sharing  
12 with our young people the type of information that  
13 you've shared here today.

14           The saying goes that my people suffer for  
15 lack of knowledge. A lot of our young people are  
16 acting out because their interpretation of the law is a  
17 lot different than the information that you've shared  
18 here today. And it's not always convenient for these  
19 young people to have access to this type of knowledge.

20           We who have PTSOs and parent teacher  
21 organizations, we don't have the kind of money to bring  
22 in people like yourselves to put on these forums on an  
23 ongoing basis. And some of you sitting here, I'm sure  
24 are going to say just ask me and we'll come. But what  
25 I'm mostly interested in is getting an organized panel

1 such as the one that you have here from the local, the  
2 state and the federal level that can come in and share  
3 and impart this kind of knowledge on an ongoing basis  
4 to our students. And I think it will have a dramatic  
5 effect on their behavior.

6 So if the answer is yes, those of you here on  
7 the panel, at the end of it, if you could give me your  
8 cards and tell me that, yes, you will do that. And we  
9 will organize and establish a forum and a time that you  
10 can come.

11 Thank you.

12 BOARD MEMBER JOHNSON: Mr. Meekins. And then  
13 we'll adjourn for 10 minutes.

14 MR. MEEKINS: Yes. This is for the panel.  
15 Friendly fire. Police officers are firing their  
16 weapons. Some civilians are being killed. But under  
17 friendly fire, police officers are being killed.

18 We're aware that of the statistics in every  
19 police department when weapons are fired, anybody  
20 injured and the whole nine yards. We're aware that  
21 under FBI reports, robberies, rapes, burglaries are all  
22 recorded.

23 So my question is who's recording the  
24 incidents of weapons being fired and who's doing the  
25 violence. Black police officers are being shot all



1 over the country by white police officers. We want to  
2 know, and citizens are being shot. But we want to know  
3 who's recording these incidents.

4 Just like churches were being burned down  
5 South. Everybody knew they were being burned. But  
6 until there was a national clearinghouse, the Justice  
7 Department required everybody to submit that  
8 information. Then they were able to record patterns  
9 and find out who was doing the burning.

10 So my question is who's documenting and where  
11 is the clearinghouse for all these police shootings and  
12 who's issuing these reports. Because we would like to  
13 get copies.

14 MR. ROBINSON: I don't know with respect to  
15 state law enforcement. I know that if a federal  
16 officer fires their gun, that information is collected  
17 and ultimately funneled to the FBI. That frankly  
18 doesn't happen a lot. But I don't know with respect to  
19 state police officers or local police officers.

20 CHAIRMAN MACY: That may be something that Mr.  
21 Bailey could answer. And if we get that question in  
22 writing, either you could submit or we can submit it to  
23 him.

24 MR. TORRES: As far as the local level, we're  
25 required anytime an officer fires his weapon, we are

1 required to document that fact. Whether it strikes  
2 somebody or not.

3 AUDIENCE: Do you report that information to -  
4 -

5 MR. TORRES: We forward it to the state.

6 AUDIENCE: State police or state's attorney?

7 MR. TORRES: State police.

8 (Crosstalk.)

9 BOARD MEMBER JOHNSON: All right. We'll take  
10 a break for 10 minutes and we'll reconvene at 25 past  
11 5:00.

12 (Whereupon, a recess was taken.)

13 CHAIRMAN MACY: Just before we have the  
14 penultimate session, this is the ultimate session.  
15 This is the last session of our group and this is open  
16 to no panel. It's open to comments from each of the  
17 people.

18 And the moderator for this hearing is Maritza  
19 Tiru, one of our panel. So, Maritza --

20 And everybody who speaks should do like  
21 everybody else. Go up to the mike, give you name and  
22 make your statement. You have five minutes.

23 Maritza.

24 BOARD MEMBER TIRU: Okay. Once again, on  
25 behalf of the SAC Advisory Committee from Connecticut,

1 I'd like to thank all the people that are still here  
2 and who still have the energy to make statements. You  
3 will have five minutes. You will have to introduce  
4 yourself. And five minutes will be counted by Dr.  
5 Chung.

6 The floor is open.

7 AUDIENCE: Thank you. I'm still Burt  
8 Weinstein. And I didn't mention before but I'd like to  
9 now for the record that I speak for the Civil Liberties  
10 Union and have for years in this regard. We do a lot  
11 of work here.

12 In fairness to U.S. Attorney Robinson, I want  
13 to state that the word to get out is things are not as  
14 bad as they used to be in terms of filing complaints.  
15 I can remember, and the chief can remember when people  
16 who saw cops beating someone up, they were visited and  
17 told that if they testified old charges would be  
18 renewed and they'd be given a hard time. I've had to  
19 go to federal court over that.

20 That does not happen any more. I can tell  
21 you I have not the slightest doubt at all, and I hold  
22 the gold in both police skepticism and cynicism. I  
23 haven't the slightest doubt that Robinson and his  
24 people will protect to the hilt anyone who is given a  
25 hard time for filing a complaint.

1           To that extent there has been improvement.  
2 It is clear that the feds, with all their investigative  
3 facilities, cannot find anybody that is profiled coming  
4 from Trumbull, that's another matter.

5           I think the explanation lies in a great  
6 teacher of ancient times who said who is so blind as he  
7 who will not see. We know perfectly well we're stopped  
8 for no good reason. We know because Chief Bercini has  
9 said it. He got trapped into saying it. They can't  
10 prove they weren't doing 50 in a 25 zone, even if they  
11 don't get tickets. And that is the kind of  
12 justification for profiling.

13           Now, I don't want to be unkind, but on the  
14 other hand, accuracy requires me to state that that  
15 kind of stupidity is his major saving grace. Remarks  
16 like that finally led to some degree of control over  
17 the profiling.

18           It is rampant and it's simply not credible  
19 that the feds don't know about it. But Robinson, as  
20 any attorney, must convince strangers who do not live  
21 in the inner city, strangers called the jury, strangers  
22 called judges, of what goes on. And there must be hard  
23 evidence. The community must be willing to come  
24 forward.

25           It is heartbreaking to see three-quarters of

1 black juries not show up for jury duty and see good  
2 discrimination cases go down for lack of jurors who  
3 could explain in the jury room the way the world is.  
4 It's got to be a mutual effort. The community must  
5 take responsibility. And in fairness, there are plenty  
6 of people in the Police Union, in the NAACP and the  
7 Urban League who, if people will come forward, stand up  
8 and take responsibility. We will help you and things  
9 can be done.

10                   And I want the record to reflect that there  
11 has been some improvement and there needs to be a lot  
12 more.

13                   Thank you.

14                   AUDIENCE: Hello. I'm Anthony Flowers. I'm  
15 here as a representative for myself as a citizen and  
16 other minorities and other persons.

17                   My question that I have is I've been an  
18 applicant taking police tests since I was 19.  
19 Basically, I've been taking the state police test since  
20 that time, passing, getting very high scores and  
21 feeling qualified to get a position and an offer, not  
22 only in Connecticut but New York, L.A. Taking tests.  
23 But there always seems to be a problem with hiring.  
24 Everyone talks about basically that there should be  
25 policies on what is done as officers but what about

1 hiring the minority officers in different departments.

2 I have something written but I will send it  
3 to my representative, Senator Alvin Penn, sometime this  
4 month. But I guess I ought to bring it forth here.

5 But I guess the question is what about  
6 minority officers and the problems that applicants go  
7 through, as far as you take the test, you pass the  
8 test, go through the process, but they always seem to  
9 eliminate you through some reason or another.

10 I just feel it's kind of stereotypical that  
11 it's okay to be a white officer but not anything of a  
12 minority officer. So I felt that that question could  
13 be addressed.

14 That's basically it. To sum it up, I'd just  
15 like to have it addressed.

16 BOARD MEMBER TIRU: Are you asking the  
17 questions to the previous panelists? I mean, I'm not -  
18 -

19 AUDIENCE: Well, to anyone that can answer the  
20 question that I'm bringing.

21 MR. MEEKINS: This is a black man who has  
22 taken a number of exams and passed them and has not  
23 been called or has not been hired. Trumbull is in the  
24 process of looking for quality minority candidates but  
25 yet Trumbull wants to charge \$400 suddenly now because

1 this whole this of a recruiting mode.

2           They made an agreement with the Justice  
3 Department and reneged. So, he's asked the President  
4 of the Guardians to assist any minority candidates who  
5 want to apply for the police department. But we're not  
6 going to pay them \$400 to get this gentleman an  
7 application to join a police department that does not  
8 have any blacks.

9           So we're here to help and he's in the right  
10 place. And if there's anything that can be done about  
11 recruiting, particularly in these small communities,  
12 any clout that you have to contact Trumbull. It's only  
13 right up the street. Or Sheldon, or Millford.

14           I'm quite sure we can be of service.

15           CHAIRMAN MACY: Ted, has anybody talked to  
16 CHRO on this? Because if it falls in anybody's  
17 bailiwick, it's with the CHRO. They have the  
18 responsibility to investigate cases like this and, if  
19 necessary, to take action. They have the authority to  
20 take legal action. As you know, you don't have. But  
21 they do.

22           MR. MEEKINS: Or make an appointment with  
23 EEOC.

24           In order for him to first be appointed,  
25 he has to file and be denied. Just to file is not

1 enough for them to get involved. I'll take him over to  
2 see the CHRO commission right there on Broad Street,  
3 once he applies. He first has to apply to Trumbull,  
4 then he has to officially be told -- he has to be an  
5 injured party. Once he's an injured party, then  
6 there's a complaint.

7 CHAIRMAN MACY: But charging the many, which  
8 would deny him a right literally to apply for a  
9 position, may be ground. I don't know what basis the  
10 CHRO uses but it would seem to me that that may be a  
11 ground for them to want to investigate why candidates,  
12 when it happens nowhere else.

13 This is the first time you're hearing the  
14 answers that you're getting. Am I right?

15 MR. FLOWERS: I know about what he's talking  
16 about where you have to pay in order to go forward. But  
17 it's just -- you know, you take the test, apply. And  
18 certain cities somehow can't afford to give a mass  
19 test. So they go through the agency, the file  
20 registry. So they go through that process.

21 So I've never been through the process. Like  
22 the state, Bridgeport. A lot of mass testing. But  
23 there's a lot of applicants that are minority but they  
24 do not get hired.

25 My point is, you know, be fair in the



1 process, whatever it takes in a legal way.

2 Not saying that I'm asking for any favoritism  
3 as far as when I take these tests. I've scored very  
4 high and still for some reason -- but yet I'm never  
5 hired.

6 CHAIRMAN MACY: Going with Mr. Meekins to the  
7 CHRO I think would be helpful.

8 MR. FLOWERS: It's been a long process. Since  
9 19. I'm now 31, going on 32, and it gets to be a point  
10 where -- you know.

11 AUDIENCE: I'm Dave Daniels. I'm the  
12 President of the Bridgeport Guardians, a third term.  
13 Two year terms each time.

14 I will also say as Vice President of the  
15 National Black Police Association's Northeast Region,  
16 which has black police organizations in the eight  
17 northeastern states.

18 I've been involved in this kind of work for  
19 12 years. I've never talked to you. You've never come  
20 to the Guardians. Because this is something that you  
21 wouldn't have to go through since you were 19 because  
22 we all know part of this process.

23 There's a saying that goes that in order to  
24 become a police officer here in Bridgeport you have to  
25 be twice as good as the white candidates. I know

1 that's true in the business world, too. But the more  
2 people you have on your side, the better off you are,  
3 obviously.

4 I've seen you on the street. I've never  
5 stopped and talked to you because I never have time to  
6 talk to anybody. But if somebody stops me, I generally  
7 give them a conversation.

8 You've never said anything to me.

9 MR. FLOWERS: Well, I don't want to debate  
10 what you said, but I have talked to you. I asked you  
11 and you said -- matter of fact, on the north end, you  
12 said, I'll give you the application the next time I  
13 know.

14 (Crosstalk.)

15 MR. DANIELS: I understand what you're saying.  
16 You're just not listening to me.

17 What I'm saying to you is this, here and now  
18 in front of all these people, that had you come to me  
19 about this issue we could have helped you.

20 I understand the process. In this state, the  
21 way the keep blacks off the job is they use this  
22 consortium in New York. And what they do is -- a city  
23 like Bridgeport has civil service where Bridgeport puts  
24 on the test, basically, through it's civil service  
25 department.

1           You don't have to pay for it. I think this  
2 last session you had to pay \$10 for non-city residents.  
3 But the outlying towns, the way they keep the minority  
4 participation down is you're a minority. You already  
5 don't have a job. You go to apply for this job and  
6 they tell you, you've got to go to New York to take the  
7 test. You've got to pay them \$400. You've got to  
8 score over a certain grade average. And then if you  
9 get the job, you get your \$400 back. That's the way it  
10 works.

11           The way they keep us out is they tell us that  
12 a passing score is a 70 but the town is only going to  
13 accept an 80. They don't tell you that. But the \$400  
14 is a hurdle, especially for somebody that doesn't have  
15 a job or somebody that has a job that has children or  
16 somebody that has other interests than just trying to  
17 get that job.

18           But I'm going to make a commitment to you  
19 because I think part of my obligation as a black police  
20 officer is to get others in this employment because I  
21 see a trend. The trend I see across the country is  
22 that we've made gains that are now being taken back.

23           I see classes going forward that only have  
24 one black. And I can't even believe that a city like  
25 Bridgeport that has 44 percent minorities.

1           So I'll make a commitment to you publicly  
2 that we'll help you. So I'm going to give you my  
3 number before you leave. You call me and we'll sit  
4 down and work this out. Because if you've been taking  
5 tests since you were 19 and you really want come on  
6 this job, then I'm really going to help you.

7           MR. FLOWERS: I thank him for coming forward.  
8 I don't want to make it a debate or issue between us  
9 because definitely I have seen him but haven't known  
10 what process could I take to go to any of the  
11 Guardians. It's just that way. If I had known, I  
12 would have came forward to have them to go through this  
13 issue like this here.

14           MR. CHUN: Well, I'm glad you came.

15           AUDIENCE: My name is Bobby Simmons. I'm a  
16 local CPA in the area.

17           I guess the principal matter that I want to  
18 present is there's a good deal that I feel we have to  
19 do in Bridgeport. Now, the ministers present  
20 themselves as the leaders and they always have a lot to  
21 say and speak for other people. But at the present  
22 time, there are I believe two positions on the Board of  
23 Police Commissioners that are not filled.

24           I believe now Mayor Gannon hasn't filled  
25 them.

1           It seems like the strategy is when there are  
2 any people in the community that learned, that's  
3 informed, understand how organizations work, these  
4 people are not appointed to boards. It seems to me  
5 that the individuals that are appointed by the mayor  
6 are those people who are the most uninformed -- I won't  
7 say uneducated, but people that are bought off.

8           So I wish that the ministers who are here  
9 because they need to go to the mayor and find out why  
10 the board does not have these two positions filled.

11           The other thing is essentially any board in  
12 Bridgeport, Fire Commission, Park Commission, Police  
13 Commission, is headed by a white. And it's  
14 predominantly white. So we have some issues we need  
15 debated and we need to address these concerns with the  
16 mayor.

17           Thank you.

18           BOARD MEMBER TIRU: Mr. Stuart, would you like  
19 to respond to his request of two slots not being  
20 filled?

21           MR. STUART: Sure.

22           The information that you shared is incorrect.  
23 I recommended from my community --

24           CHAIRMAN MACY: Are you saying they're not  
25 vacant?

1 MR. STUART: That's exactly what I'm saying.  
2 I recommended Mr. Dave Hall. He was appointed in the  
3 last round. Dave Hall was the last vacancy. We had  
4 one individual that resigned. No. Her term was  
5 completed. And I forgot the gentleman's name. He was  
6 appointed after Mr. Dave Hall. Presently there is no  
7 vacancy. There's one vacancy that will come up in  
8 December of the year 2000.

9 MR. SIMMONS: Well, I was at the NAACP meeting  
10 --

11 MR. STUART: Well, I'm stating the facts. I  
12 don't know what --

13 CHAIRMAN MACY: Excuse me. Remember what the  
14 stenographer said. We can't hear two people at once.  
15 So when he finishes, you'll have a chance to respond.

16 MR. STUART: That particular commission, as it  
17 stands now, the next seat will become available in the  
18 year 2000 in December as it stands now. If you want to  
19 clarify, you can go and I can dial my number and you  
20 can call the clerk's office while I'm standing here and  
21 we can fax it.

22 The other issues that you brought up comes  
23 down to when you say there are no -- and I want to get  
24 the correct term. When you mentioned the committee  
25 don't have -- what are you saying?

1           MR. SIMMONS: I was saying that all of the  
2 boards in Bridgeport are chaired essentially by whites.  
3 The Fire Commission. But before I get to that, I just  
4 want to clarify one thing.

5           You said that the Police Commission is up to  
6 capacity? Because I was at the NAACP meeting and the  
7 captain said that there were two vacant positions.

8           MR. STUART: The captain was wrong.

9           MR. SIMMONS: The captain of Internal Affairs  
10 said there were two vacant positions. How many  
11 positions are on the board of Police Commissioners? D  
12 you know?

13           MR. STUART: I don't know the exact number  
14 because we at one point had alternates, I think it was,  
15 at one point.

16           (Crosstalk.)

17           CHAIRMAN MACY: You guys are making it very  
18 difficult for the court stenographer and the record.

19           MR. SIMMONS: I'm sorry. The charter provides  
20 for nine?

21           MR. STUART: It's an odd number. But I don't  
22 know whether you are aware --

23           MR. SIMMONS: The captain told us that there  
24 were two vacant positions.

25           MR. STUART: When you say the captain, let me

1 say this so you'll have a clear understanding. Last  
2 week we swore in 40 people. Two months ago, we swore  
3 in almost --

4 MR. SIMMONS: (Off mike.)

5 MR. STUART: You at least have to understand  
6 so that this will begin to make sense. Once again, we  
7 swore in 40 people on various boards. As of last week,  
8 various boards. Prior to that, the third week in  
9 January -- and I don't know the exact number but we  
10 swore in a group of others.

11 So my point that I'm trying to make to you,  
12 you asked a question about the Police Commission. As  
13 it stands now, each component has a seat and it's being  
14 occupied up to the 12<sup>th</sup> of this year.

15 MR. SIMMONS: Let me just say this now. I  
16 don't know what happened last week but I think it was a  
17 week and a half ago that I was present at the NAACP  
18 meeting and the captain of Internal Affairs said there  
19 were two vacant positions.

20 Now, what happened after the last meeting?  
21 Are you saying that --

22 (Crosstalk.)

23 Are you saying that in the last week they  
24 appointed these two commissioners?

25 MR. STUART: No. That's not what I'm saying.



1 I am saying as it stands now -- beg your pardon?

2 MR. SIMMONS: I'm saying that the captain said  
3 there were two vacant positions on the Police  
4 Commission and you said that in the last week there  
5 were 40 people that filled -- positions that were  
6 filled on commissions.

7 MR. STUART: No. I said there were 40 people  
8 sworn in last week to various committees or  
9 commissions. I'm talking about commissions. I'm  
10 sorry. Commissions.

11 MR. SIMMONS: (Off mike.)

12 MR. STUART: That's all I can do unless you  
13 know something I don't know. There may be some concern  
14 or confusion. If a person's term has expired,  
15 according to your charter, that person stays there  
16 until that person is sworn in or replaced.

17 MR. SIMMONS: I understand.

18 MR. STUART: And I'm not saying this to  
19 suggest that you don't understand that. What I am  
20 saying is that although that time may have expired,  
21 that person still sits there. Now, if he's referring  
22 to that time having expired on two seats, technically  
23 that person still sits there.

24 MR. SIMMONS: These positions are just vacant.  
25 The people are not there. I think you have explained

1 what happened here.

2 (Crosstalk.)

3 MR. STUART: That's the clarification on it.

4 That's no problem.

5 BOARD MEMBER TIRU: Thank you.

6 The lady in the back now.

7 AUDIENCE: Yes. I'm a member of the community  
8 and I was --

9 BOARD MEMBER TIRU: Your name, please?

10 AUDIENCE: My name is Florence Marshall. I  
11 was beat by a police in the early '70s. And I wasn't  
12 able to get an attorney to represent me in Bridgeport.

13 We need, as people of African-American  
14 community, we need a civilian review board. We need a  
15 police brutality hotline and we need more advertising  
16 to the community to let people know when meetings are  
17 being held so that community members can be involved.  
18 When there's any meeting in reference to police  
19 brutality, the community is not aware of it.

20 I mean, a lot of people don't even know about  
21 this meeting. And a lot of people in Bridgeport are  
22 getting viciously and brutally beaten. And it's kept  
23 very, very quiet. And something should be done about  
24 it. Something should be done about it.

25 That's all I have to say.

1 MR. CHUN: Excuse me. Can I ask you a follow  
2 up question, Miss?

3 BOARD MEMBER TIRU: Ms. Marshall?

4 MR. CHUN: Could I ask a follow-up question?

5 MS. MARSHALL: Yes.

6 MR. CHUN: I take your comments very  
7 seriously. And the fact that as far as you know,  
8 community people are not aware of this event, that's a  
9 matter of concern for us because we think we've done  
10 all we could, reasonably speaking that is. We have  
11 sent about 70 notices to 70 some media outlets. We  
12 have let community leaders as far as we knew of,  
13 informed them of this forthcoming event, et cetera, et  
14 cetera.

15 First of all, I want you to know that we have  
16 done our reasonable best but of course that is not  
17 enough, according to you.

18 What would you suggest that we do in the  
19 future for an event like this?

20 MS. MARSHALL: I suggest that broader  
21 advertising be done as far as -- I understand there's  
22 small print, from what I was told when I spoke to  
23 someone about it. There was small print inside the  
24 newspaper.

25 MR. CHUN: On Monday morning, did you read the

1 Connecticut Post? There is a very visible notice about  
2 -- this one. The whole thing across the paper. Monday  
3 morning.

4 MS. MARSHALL: I didn't see that. I didn't  
5 see that.

6 MR. CHUN: Well, at least the Connecticut Post  
7 promoted -- advertised this event. So I'm interested  
8 in knowing what else we could have done.

9 VOICE: When did your session start?

10 MR. CHUN: Yesterday.

11 VOICE: Maybe one idea might be if you could  
12 advertise maybe a little earlier.

13 MR. CHUN: I think I get your drift but there  
14 is a logistical problem. Sending out earlier is  
15 relatively easy. But what the press does what we send  
16 the is totally beyond us.

17 VOICE: If you say that you want a certain ad  
18 on a certain page at a certain time and you pay for it,  
19 --

20 MR. CHUN: This is not what we pay for. No.

21 VOICE: You don't pay for it?

22 MR. CHUN: This is a news story.

23 VOICE: Oh. Well, the answer then is to have  
24 paid advertising.

25 BOARD MEMBER TIRU: How long did that ad run?

1 (Crosstalk.)

2 No. It was in the newspaper.

3 MR. CHUN: That's right. It was a newspaper  
4 ad for the Connecticut Post.

5 MS. MARSHALL: Was it in it one day?

6 MR. CHUN: That's right.

7 MS. MARSHALL: Well, then maybe it should be  
8 in it more often so that the people can make -- to make  
9 sure that the people read it and notice that there is a  
10 meeting.

11 CHAIRMAN MACY: It was also announced on a  
12 number of radio stations.

13 MS. MARSHALL: You have police officers riding  
14 around hunting people, black people, like animals.  
15 It's really hard to respond to a meeting like this.  
16 Because most of the people are in fear. They're not  
17 going to come even though they read it. Because they're  
18 in fear of their life. The police officers in  
19 Bridgeport are vicious and they are dangerous.

20 They openly in public beat black people. I  
21 just spoke to a lady -- stand up and tell it. Stand  
22 up.

23 I want her to come up and tell this.

24 CHAIRMAN MACY: We have other people here.

25 MS. MARSHALL: She had spoke to me out in the

1 hallway about a police officer that kicked and beat a  
2 citizen of the United States. And she -- they're  
3 vicious. I don't think many of them have a conscience  
4 about beating this individual and just kicking and  
5 hurting them. And they didn't care. I think they said  
6 something out of the way to you when you tried to put a  
7 stop to it.

8 I mean, the police officers in Bridgeport  
9 feel comfortable that they can do anything they want.  
10 And someone has them feeling that way. That they can  
11 openly beat African-American people. And it's to the  
12 point where people are afraid to come forth.

13 Like I said, and I say that again. If they  
14 did see that ad, it was out of fear that they didn't  
15 come to this community meeting.

16 BOARD MEMBER TIRU: Did you finish, Ms.  
17 Marshall?

18 MS. MARSHALL: Yes.

19 BOARD MEMBER TIRU: I'd like to call the lady.

20 MS. MARSHALL: Yes. Please, come up.

21 CHAIRMAN MACY: Excuse me. She's the  
22 chairperson of this session.

23 BOARD MEMBER TIRU: Can we allow her, in order  
24 to give her statement.

25 CHAIRMAN MACY: Come up, young lady.

1           AUDIENCE: Good evening. My name is Sandra  
2 Rollins. And I'll be very brief. I'm actually from --  
3 I'm not a native of Connecticut. I'm actually from  
4 Pennsylvania in the northerly area. And we fell a long  
5 way down.

6           The police back in our times, you know, we  
7 were friends. I mean, they were almost just like a  
8 part of the family within the community. We knew their  
9 names. They knew our names.

10           Geographically and socially and economically  
11 and educationally, so much has changed. But I don't  
12 live very far from here and a few days -- matter of  
13 fact, it was March 23<sup>rd</sup>. I was on my way to the post  
14 office, to be very brief, and I was walking along right  
15 down there in front of Jerry's little store. And I  
16 noticed two police cars, one on one side of Main Street  
17 and one on the other side.

18           These policemen apparently had apprehended  
19 this individual for some reason, obviously. But when I  
20 came up, the gentleman was handcuffed. He was faced  
21 toward the police car. And there wasn't any signs of  
22 the fact that he had retaliated. His clothes weren't  
23 dirty. He was spotless. He was peaceful. It was  
24 peaceful, just like you're sitting here.

25           So, therefore, to me the police officer, it

1 was totally uncalled for. And I'm basically not a  
2 curious or inquisitive person most of the time, but for  
3 some reason I was led to see this and observe. And so  
4 that's what I did.

5 He took the man's head and he just literally  
6 banged it into the edge of the -- roof of the car and  
7 the front door where he would usually be sitting at.  
8 That's the first thing he did. Then he jerked him  
9 back. The man still -- just taking it.

10 He opened the back seat of the police car.  
11 He pushed his head in, and then he took his foot and  
12 literally kicked him in face down on his belly.

13 Now, I knew he was cussing at him but words  
14 he was saying verbally, I don't know. But he was  
15 cussing at the man. And then he said this is what I  
16 think of you. And he literally reached in there and  
17 spit on him.

18 Now there was another police officer that was  
19 across the street that had come over, had reached the  
20 pavement by me by the time he was busy kicking him into  
21 -- the man was in faced down, handcuffed and on the  
22 floor. And the other police officer at this point was  
23 there. He seen him when he kicked him down. But it  
24 was like the other police officer was perplexed. He  
25 didn't say anything but he didn't approve it.



1           And it's like, man, do you know you're out  
2 here in broad daylight hitting him like that.

3           So he slammed the door shut. And when he  
4 slammed the door shut, I said, Mr. Police Officer, I'm  
5 on my way to the post office. But as soon as I leave  
6 the post office, I am going to report you. You  
7 shouldn't treat nobody like that.

8           He spun around like this, because by rights  
9 all he had to do was go up, open the police car and get  
10 in. I was standing behind him. He spun around like  
11 this and he said to me, F- you. And he slammed the  
12 door shut and he sped away.

13           So my question basically, you know, sometimes  
14 I wonder what is really the psychological profile that  
15 officers are really -- that is really used to sort of  
16 like fill out when they get ready to hire.

17           It's tough out here. And I have met a lot of  
18 nice police officer. And I have thanked my Lord that  
19 they came to my rescue for whatever reason. But there  
20 is a lot of police brutality out here.

21           To be honest, I even was reluctant, even  
22 though I went up to Congress Street and gave my  
23 statement, I was reluctant not to go forth with my  
24 testimony. I really was. Because I was sort of afraid  
25 of retaliation. If he broad daylight treats this guy

1 like this in broad daylight on Main Street, what might  
2 he really do to me.

3           So I was real reluctant. So what I did was,  
4 because I'm in the body of Christ, I called Reverend  
5 Cook and I went down and made my report down to  
6 Congressman's Shay's office.

7           I was reluctant to come forth but I did come  
8 forth. I made my statement today. But, yes, there is  
9 a lot of police brutality in our neighborhood.

10           CHAIRMAN MACY: Could you stay there for a  
11 minute? I have a question I'd like to ask you.

12           How long ago was it that you made your  
13 report?

14           MS. ROLLINS: Well, first, on March 23<sup>rd</sup> at  
15 approximately 1:35, about 1:45. I had went to Congress  
16 Street. And I went down to Congressman Shay's office  
17 first -- to the post office first, to Congressman  
18 Shay's office, and then up to Congress Street to the  
19 Police Department and made my written report there. At  
20 that point they said someone will be in touch with you  
21 to hear your official statement. And so today, I went  
22 down at 10:00 and --

23           CHAIRMAN MACY: That was the question I was  
24 going to ask. You did make it?

25           MS. ROLLINS: I did it today at 10:00.

1           CHAIRMAN MACY: So now they said that they  
2 would get back to you?

3           MS. ROLLINS: Yes, sir.

4           CHAIRMAN MACY: We have the Mayor's assistant  
5 here. If they don't get back to you, I would suggest  
6 you call the Mayor's assistant and let him know.

7           AUDIENCE: (Off mike.)

8           MR. CHUN: And to follow up, could somebody  
9 inform us, if you could, please, as soon as the case is  
10 resolved to your satisfaction?

11          CHAIRMAN MACY: Mr. Stuart, could you let us  
12 know?

13          MR. STUART: Sure.

14          AUDIENCE: Good afternoon. My name is Adam  
15 Gray. I'm a Sacred Heart University public safety  
16 officer.

17                 December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1998, I was in a safety  
18 vehicle marked Sacred Heart Public Safety on the side.  
19 It was a white Explorer vehicle. As I was sitting in  
20 the parking lot, two police officers came behind me and  
21 parked there a couple of minutes behind me. About five  
22 minutes later one of the officers came on one side of  
23 the vehicle and the other officer came on the other  
24 side and put a gun to my head and told me to put my  
25 hands up. They asked me if I had a weapon. I answered

1 them I didn't have a weapon. We're not authorized to  
2 carry weapons.

3           They didn't believe me. They put my hands  
4 behind -- they asked me to put my hand on the wheel so  
5 they could see it. I did. One of the officers kept  
6 the gun to my head. The other one opened the door,  
7 searched me, completely patted me down and took me out  
8 of the vehicle, pushed my head to the vehicle with my  
9 hands behind my back. Still asking if I had a gun.

10           I continuously told these officers I did not  
11 have a gun. I never possessed a gun except when I was  
12 in the Army. And they would not believe me.

13           They allegedly told me later -- they asked me  
14 who I was. I showed my name on my badge, my name tag,  
15 and they still did not believe me that I was not the  
16 individual that they were looking for.

17           I later learned that they were looking for  
18 another individual who works for Sacred Heart  
19 University, another black man who was driving a blue  
20 Ford Explorer -- Ford Tempo. I was driving a white Ford  
21 Explorer with Sacred Heart University Public Safety  
22 emblem on the side. This individual was driving a blue  
23 Ford Tempo, was not at the property of Sacred Heart at  
24 the time the alleged crime took place. It was downtown  
25 Bridgeport.

1           And when I asked the officer if they could  
2 not have called me to the officer and asked if I could  
3 be called to the office, even if they were looking for  
4 me. I asked the polices why did they do that, and they  
5 told me we're looking for a black man and you are a  
6 black man. And you were in the same vicinity that this  
7 individual works.

8           I asked for the supervisor of that shift.  
9 The supervisor came down. I told him what happened and  
10 he said things like this happen all the time. This is  
11 what happens.

12           I am actually surprised that this could  
13 possibly happen in America, that you could be sitting  
14 in a parking lot -- and somebody could put a gun to  
15 your head and this is normal behavior? This is how the  
16 police operates? And they said, we have a lot of  
17 crimes in the city and we'll do whatever we can to  
18 protect ourselves. I only make \$60,000 and I'm not  
19 going to allow myself to be killed in an accident. I'm  
20 going to kill someone before they kill me.

21           I assured the officer, the sergeant, I didn't  
22 have a gun. I wasn't carrying a gun. I was sitting in  
23 a vehicle minding my own business when these officers  
24 put a gun to my head. What am I doing to cause your  
25 officers to kill anyone? I'm sitting in the vehicle in

1 a parking lot with tons of cars. Nobody's around. Why  
2 didn't someone call me to the office.

3 The state police, any time they want to  
4 arrest somebody in public safety at Sacred Heart  
5 University, they come to the office. They ask one of  
6 the supervisors, can you call this person to the  
7 office. Why couldn't be afforded that small amount of  
8 respect that other people are afforded? That would  
9 have solved the problem.

10 And they kept telling me, we do whatever we  
11 can to apprehend individuals who are doing crime  
12 regardless of what we have to do.

13 I called the Internal Affairs Office and I  
14 was told that since I was not arrested this was not a  
15 big deal. But if you want to come down to our office  
16 and fill out a report, you can do so. But the whole  
17 incident was absolutely nothing important to do.

18 The sergeant said like it was an every day  
19 thing. The officers were shocked that I was disturbed  
20 by their behavior. The Internal Affairs Office were  
21 surprised that I was reporting this minuscule incident.

22 This happened two years ago. And every time  
23 I see a police vehicle or police officer, I always feel  
24 the same way. I always shiver. I always feel that  
25 someone is out there to kill me.

1           I have never looked them in the eye prior to  
2 that day and every time I see an officer I see that gun  
3 being pointed to my head. I have no idea how much  
4 authority you have over the Bridgeport Police  
5 Department, but please, whatever you do, ask the mayor,  
6 ask the police chief, what training do they give their  
7 officers when they handle situations. What procedure  
8 do they follow.

9           Do they have unrestricted responsibility for  
10 the citizens of this city? What do we have to do as a  
11 black people, as a black male, to walk the street  
12 unmolested by police officers? What do we have to do?

13           I was talking to an officer -- and he told me  
14 that we're allowed to take individuals out of their  
15 vehicles, slam them to the ground without telling them  
16 what they did wrong.

17           If we did that, we'd continue to say -- if we  
18 did that in Fairfield, in Shelton, in Trumbull, we  
19 would be fired immediately. Why couldn't they be fired  
20 for the same crime that they did in Bridgeport and  
21 other towns? Are there different constitutional rights  
22 for people who live in Bridgeport and people who live  
23 in Fairfield? Aren't we entitled to the same rights  
24 that they're entitled to?

25           CHAIRMAN MACY: Let me ask you the same

1 question I asked the last speaker. Did you follow the  
2 advice and file a complaint with the Police Department?

3 AUDIENCE: No, I didn't. I called Internal  
4 Affairs.

5 CHAIRMAN MACY: After that, did you file a  
6 written complaint?

7 AUDIENCE: No, I didn't.

8 CHAIRMAN MACY: Mr. Stuart, I take it there's  
9 nothing that can be done unless a person files a  
10 written complaint. Am I correct?

11 MR. STUART: (Off mike.) Documentation is key  
12 to anything. Documentation is key. No matter if it  
13 happened again, if it was never documented -- I don't  
14 know what the statute of limitations are but if you  
15 really want to go to Congress Street, the Police  
16 Department, --

17 AUDIENCE: I hope, gentlemen and ladies, that  
18 you will do whatever you can to send a message to the  
19 officers that just treat people with respect. I know  
20 there are problems out there. But treating the  
21 criminals with a certain amount of respect and  
22 immediately the problem will not be so bad at the end  
23 of the day.

24 BOARD MEMBER TIRU: Thank you.

25 Any more questions, comments from the public?



1           AUDIENCE: I have a comment that I'd like to  
2 make before I leave.

3           BOARD MEMBER TIRU: Could you come to the  
4 microphone if you want to make a comment?

5           AUDIENCE: My back still hurts me from that  
6 injury. I'm upset at the fact that we're not properly  
7 represented in Bridgeport. We are a large minority.  
8 There's a lot of us, a lot of black people in  
9 Bridgeport but we're not adequately represented in the  
10 courts. There's a deterrent when we go to city hall to  
11 represent ourselves. There's a police officer there.  
12 And people that have been beaten are afraid even to go  
13 into the city hall. The corridors are clear. It's like  
14 you're not allowed in there. There's a police officer  
15 that stands at the door.

16           The community is not represented in the  
17 courts and that should be noted, too. We're not only  
18 beaten by police openly on the streets, we're beaten  
19 inside the courts, downstairs. And I had even asked  
20 why they've got cameras coming. Well, they said the  
21 cameras are not allowed. And I asked one of the  
22 cameramen that was outside with the camera about an  
23 incident that happened in the court and said why don't  
24 you go inside the court and go downstairs. Oh, we're  
25 not allowed to go downstairs.

1 I mean, how is people to know that this is  
2 going on if we're not allowed to do this, we're not  
3 allowed to do that when we're really in need of help or  
4 assistance as far as being represented.

5 CHAIRMAN MACY: Do you know Mr. Stuart at all?

6 AUDIENCE: Do I know Mr. Stuart?

7 CHAIRMAN MACY: Yes.

8 AUDIENCE: Yes. I know Mr. Stuart.

9 CHAIRMAN MACY: Have you made any complaints  
10 to him? Because that's really a local type thing that  
11 you should do first. And then if it doesn't get  
12 resolved, you can go further on it.

13 AUDIENCE: Mr. Stuart makes you believe that  
14 we're getting represented maybe by the mayor of the  
15 city of Bridgeport. That's not true. I've explained  
16 that.

17 I'm a little bit nervous because I'm afraid  
18 of my life. There's a deterrent there at the door of  
19 the city hall and it's a police officer. So how are we  
20 to go in the door if there's a deterrent at the door.

21 CHAIRMAN MACY: Thank you.

22 AUDIENCE: Good afternoon. Chris Caruso, State  
23 Representative, 126<sup>th</sup> District, Bridgeport.

24 I'd like to speak on a different topic as  
25 well today because I know there's an open part on civil

1 rights. But let me first state that what Robert  
2 Simmons said is accurate. Most of the boards and  
3 commissions in this city are comprised predominantly of  
4 Caucasian. That's in a city that's well over 50  
5 percent by the last census 10 years ago of a city  
6 that's predominantly made up of African-Americans and  
7 Latinos.

8           And most of the boards and commissions that  
9 are the major decisionmaking bodies of the city, those  
10 boards are headed by Caucasian leadership.

11           A case in point, for example, is the Planning  
12 and Zoning Commission for the city. It just so happens  
13 that the wife is the chairman and her husband is the  
14 Deputy City Attorney.

15           Now, those are major commissions of the city  
16 where they deal with land use, they deal with  
17 neighborhood development, they deal with issues that  
18 deal with African-American and Latino residents. And  
19 that is a fact. And that's not something that Chris  
20 Caruso is stating just for the sake of it. It's fact  
21 and it can be checked into and it can be substantiated.

22           On the issue of the Police Department, one of  
23 the major issues you have is that the Internal Affairs  
24 Department that is responsible for looking into the  
25 complaints of citizens but also of corrupt acts by

1 politicians, is under the jurisdiction of the mayor. So  
2 that means the head of the Internal Affairs Office  
3 reports directly to the mayor, which is unusual in  
4 other cities.

5           At one time that was not the case in  
6 Bridgeport but it's been changed. And there's been no  
7 attempt at all to change that. The former police  
8 chief, Mr. Sweeney, tried to do that, and he was  
9 rebuked. That that was not going to happen. That  
10 process was going to stay in place.

11           And I won't bore you with the litany of cases  
12 that I can refer to where I've seen that discretion  
13 used by the mayor for particular issues. I'll provide  
14 you with news articles and so forth that really place  
15 in question the actions that are taking place within  
16 complaint situations within the city.

17           It's the same thing with the Ethics  
18 Commission. It's a body of people that meets that can  
19 recommend. It has no power to impose fines or sanctions  
20 against a corrupt elected official or someone who's  
21 dealing in conflict. And those are part of the  
22 problems.

23           And then you ask yourself why doesn't the  
24 public want to speak and feel that they have a say is  
25 because the very authority that they've empowered

1 through their vote is doing things that frankly at  
2 times are not in the best interest of the citizens. So  
3 that's a concern that exists.

4 And so what you saw last time with the  
5 children of the city and school issues, you see some  
6 carryover into other departments. They don't run  
7 separately. It's again that interwoven political  
8 situation that retards growth of any agency.

9 And I don't think Bridgeport is unique but  
10 for the most part it's been out of the limelight. It's  
11 been out of the public view for a number of years  
12 because it hasn't had the same profile of some of the  
13 major cities in the state or across the country.

14 And the other issue that I wanted to speak  
15 about is something that I think is a direct civil  
16 rights violation that's been going on for quite some  
17 time. And it deals with environmental discrimination.

18 In one part of our city which is called the -  
19 - it's a power plant owned at this point by Wisbest.  
20 It's located in the south end of the city and it's near  
21 our ballpark. It's been there probably over 50 years  
22 and it's an oil and coal burning facility.

23 And the reality of it, that those plants are  
24 outdated. And back in the early '70s, about '77, the

1 EPA grandfathered this plant in along with five others  
2 in the state of Connecticut. They are responsible for  
3 50 percent of the air pollution dealing with sulphur  
4 dioxide and 10 percent of nitrogen oxide and they're  
5 allowed to exist.

6           And where this plant is located in  
7 Bridgeport, predominantly surrounding that plant are  
8 African-American and Latino families. And it's direct  
9 discrimination because in any other part of the state  
10 this would not be tolerated and yet it's being allowed  
11 to exist here.

12           The legislature has tried on several  
13 occasions, most recently this year, to pass legislation  
14 to clean up those plants, and hasn't been able to do it  
15 because of the power, if you will, of the industry that  
16 opposes any sanctions that are going to clean these  
17 plants up.

18           This to me is a direct violation of civil  
19 rights because the people living in that area and are  
20 being discriminated against for no other means because  
21 they are living there in poverty and have to be  
22 responsible for this problem. It is a public health  
23 issue. It is also an environmental issue.

24           To this day there are cars where you can  
25 literally clean off the soot on those cars after these

1 plants have been operating.

2 I think this commission should consider  
3 looking into the potential probably of a Justice  
4 Department action in order to clean these plants up,  
5 not only in Bridgeport. New Haven has one, as well.  
6 But it's a discrimination issue that the state seems to  
7 be unwilling to really make change. And others in  
8 authority seem to be unwilling to make change. And I  
9 think it's a direct violation for the people living  
10 there.

11 I close by citing two studies that I think  
12 substantiates this. There's a study done recently by  
13 Harvard University -- came out about three weeks ago --  
14 where they went to facilities in Massachusetts that are  
15 similar to the ones here in Connecticut, and they  
16 showed that in the proximity of five to 20 miles from  
17 these plants the mortality rate, or death rate, of the  
18 people in those areas is among the highest in those  
19 regions.

20 Also, the level of contracting respiratory  
21 problems, such as asthma, emphysema and some other  
22 respiratory problems, is also the highest.

23 Another study that was recently done, the Pew  
24 study, P-E-W study, that was commissioned under the  
25 direction of Lowell Reicher, who is the former governor

1 for the state of Connecticut, showed that Connecticut  
2 suffers a very severe high level of asthma related  
3 illnesses. And in particular, the cities where these  
4 plants are located are also contracting some of the  
5 highest rates.

6 Bridgeport in particular has two times the  
7 state average of children visiting emergency rooms with  
8 asthma related cases. Those are predominantly African-  
9 American and Latino children.

10 There was a study done by the Shiff  
11 Organization, which is a coalition of medical groups  
12 that came together in Bridgeport to do it and the  
13 showed that some of the highest rates of the most 10  
14 deaths leading to mortality in those communities are  
15 related to respiratory problems; emphysema,  
16 tuberculosis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease,  
17 and so forth.

18 These are two studies that have clearly  
19 spelled out the problem that exists. I might add it is  
20 the same communities that have the lowest rate of  
21 insurance coverage and access to insurance providers in  
22 those communities. So it seems very clear to me that  
23 their civil rights are being violated again because of  
24 where they live and the inability to make change.

25 Now, some will argue that the proximity of I-



1 95 in the cities are having an effect because of the  
2 sulphur dioxide that comes out of automobile emissions.  
3 And I will argue, yes, that is a problem. There's no  
4 question we should clean them up equally. However,  
5 when you have a menace, a polluting problem existing,  
6 that problem needs to be corrected as much as any other  
7 problem does, as well. You can't keep them isolated.  
8 They need to be cleaned up. And in this particular  
9 case, that's the problem that you have.

10 And I think, again, it's something that I  
11 think this commission hopefully could recommend for  
12 further review by the Justice Department or the Civil  
13 Rights Commission.

14 CHAIRMAN MACY: Mr. Caruso, were you here when  
15 U.S. Attorney Robinson was here?

16 MR. CARUSO: No.

17 CHAIRMAN MACY: He has assured us and the  
18 people here that when he is told that there are  
19 violations of federal law, that people should get in  
20 touch with him. And then if he can get the evidence,  
21 he will prosecute. It's too bad you missed him because  
22 I thought he did a good job of explaining.

23 MR. CARUSO: He may have. And I think, Mr.  
24 Macy, it's good. But the reason for this open session  
25 where you're going to be reviewing information, I think

1 it would give more credence and light if a mention  
2 could be after you research this, be included.

3           And then let me just state in closing, too,  
4 because I know that Mr. Bailey spoke. There was a  
5 young African-American boy, B. J. Brown, and his  
6 mother, who were killed by the Pilars. Apparently  
7 alleged killed by the Pilars.

8           CHAIRMAN MACY: That was discussed.

9           MR. CARUSO: That's okay. And let me state,  
10 because there's been an issue on that since we're  
11 dealing with civil rights as well. When that child was  
12 shot, I and others had called for an investigation into  
13 this issue as to why did the judge at the time release  
14 the names of the witnesses. Why weren't the names  
15 concealed. Why weren't the statements concealed as to  
16 that information.

17           That was not done. I called for an  
18 investigation of the entire process that led to the  
19 death of this child.

20           That has been ignored, frankly, and it hasn't  
21 been considered. And yet it was that child, eight  
22 years old, and Mrs. Clark, the parent, who were killed  
23 in a very vicious situation. They were witnesses in  
24 the state of Connecticut. They were our witnesses.  
25 And yet they didn't get -- they weren't given the

1 affordability of having the right protection, and the  
2 actions of the judges.

3           Now the reason I raise that, and I think it  
4 relates to civil right again, because in a similar  
5 situation on the court steps of Golden Hill Street  
6 courthouse, an individual was shot and killed. And when  
7 the defense attorneys wanted the names of the witnesses  
8 involved, the judge ordered not to do that. He refused  
9 to give that information out. Yet in this child's case  
10 it was done.

11           It just so happens that the second highest  
12 ranking judge in the state of Connecticut,  
13 administrative judge, was also the judge who was  
14 hearing the original attempted murder case that Leroy  
15 Brown was supposed to testify in. And to me, that also  
16 is a civil rights violation because we cannot get to  
17 the bottom as to the judge's actions, to the actions of  
18 the state's attorney's office in protecting this  
19 witness, to the actions of the local police department  
20 in trying to protect this witness. Yet we've heard  
21 that the mother waived apparently the rights of the  
22 child to be protected, which there is no written  
23 documentation. There is nothing verbally anyone can  
24 substantiate when they spoke to her, what conversation  
25 they had with her. There's nothing tape wise. The only

1 thing is that the police chief stood and said that she  
2 did not want the marked vehicle in front of her house,  
3 which is understandable, because that raised a lot of  
4 attention for that particular issue.

5           And here is a young black child who was not  
6 even considered when the House of Representatives  
7 decided right after the death to hold its session, that  
8 child was not even recognized in a moment of prayer,  
9 and yet a police officer who was killed shortly after  
10 Leroy Brown, was recognized.

11           And I believe -- if I could just finish. I  
12 believe that the police officer who was killed deserved  
13 the attention. Don't get me wrong. They put their  
14 lives on the line. They should be recognized. But this  
15 child deserved the same respect as other citizens in  
16 the state, and yet we received no investigation. It's  
17 all been told that there's no investigation needed and  
18 it's just been moved on. And it's something I think  
19 this commission should consider.

20           This young boy still speaks to us, I believe,  
21 in the sense that if we don't correct what caused his  
22 death, we will revisit this again in the future.

23           BOARD MEMBER TIRU: Thank you very much.

24           At this time we'd like to adjourn the last  
25 session. Again, we thank you very much. And I would

1 like to yield to the Chair of the Committee.

2 CHAIRMAN MACY: Thank you. You've summed it  
3 up. We are going to adjourn.

4 I would suggest to Mr. Caruso -- you said you  
5 had written articles -- that you forward what you have  
6 to Dr. Ki-Taek Chung of the United States Commission on  
7 Civil Rights in Washington. And we will be able to  
8 incorporate those as part of our reports.

9 On behalf of the panel, we want to thank  
10 those who sat through a very long and arduous day for  
11 being here. And when we finally finish our report, we  
12 will be back in Bridgeport to release it with all the  
13 publicity that we can, including our findings and  
14 recommendations.

15 We thank you again on behalf of the Committee  
16 for being here.

17 (Whereupon, the proceedings were concluded at  
18 5:30 p.m.)

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This is to certify that the attached  
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In the Matter of:  
COMMUNITY FORUM

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Official Reporter

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