

June 24, 1997

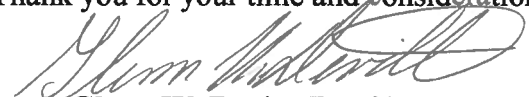
Dear Chairperson and members of the State House Judiciary Committee:

I come here this morning representing the members of United Northeast Neighbors, Inc. An umbrella organization made up of Northeast Philadelphia civic associations, town watches and other community organizations. As president, I am here to support House Bill # 1288. Unfortunately, there has been a number of false allegation against police officers that justify the need to create this type of legislation. As a Northeast community leader for over twelve years, I have heard of several situations in which police officers were hesitant to act, due to the potential of having allegation of misconduct file against them. In my humble perspective, the Philadelphia Police Force has been demoralized with a sense that there are very few people that care about their rights as police officers and individuals. It is a profession in which your entire career could be limited, if not destroyed by a split second decision. I wonder how many us would still be in our same professions if we were held to that same level of accountability.

We tend to forget that our primary reason for working is to provide a quality life for ourselves and our families. Dr. Edward Deming, the father of Japanese management and the primary individual that has brought quality back to corporate America in the eighties, constantly stated, "Tell me how I'm measured and I'll tell you how I'll act." This is a statement that can pertain to all of us. People will do whatever it takes to maintain and ensure their quality of life, this also includes police officers. Unfortunately, when this occurs to the men and women on the police force, we all suffer because their role as "protectors of society" becomes compromised, and ultimately the criminal element learns to capitalize on the police officers fear of being falsely judged.

In conclusion, there is a need to establish this type of legislation to ensure that our police officers and civilians understand that if an individual files a fraudulent misconduct complaint against a police officer and it can be proven, beyond a reasonable doubt, then that individual can and will be prosecuted and punished.

Thank you for your time and consideration,



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