

Chief of Police
Richard J. Brady



JUL 31 1997

MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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July 29, 1997

Representative Matthew Wright
760 North Woodburn Road
Longhorn, PA 19047

RE: HOUSE BILL #1154 - PRINTER'S NO. 1310

Dear Representative Wright:

The purpose of this letter is to express my concern for the referenced bill which is scheduled for a hearing in the near future before the Judiciary Committee.

The intent to have a uniform police photo identification card and registry is valid on the surface. The following are the concerns that I have in regards to this bill which go far beyond uniform photo identification cards:

1. A police officer that is in full uniform attempting to effect an arrest seldom will have time to reach into his pocket and produce a uniform photo identification card to the suspects.
A police officers uniform and badge is defined by state statute as being his/her sign of authority.
2. Why does this bill only impact municipal police officers? There are numerous law enforcement agencies that are not included in this bill such as Housing Authority Police, Transit Police, State Police, Sheriffs, Campus Police, and Park Police to name a few.
3. Why is a police officers social security number required on a uniform police identification card? What police officer wants to display his/her social security number to an individual that is being arrested? The wording in this act would also make the identification cards public information for the news media.

As a point of information the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission maintains a current registry of all certified police officers within this Commonwealth. This commission certifies police training academies, police officers and establishes in-service training programs for police officers. A registry should already be in place within this commission.

It is requested that you review and discuss these issues prior to any further action on this bill. Should this bill eventually become law it will greatly hinder the the municipal police officers within this Commonwealth when performing their duties as police officers.

Thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation in regards to this matter of public safety.

Respectfully,



Richard J. Brady
Chief of Police

xc: Rep. Gannon
MPOETC Major Mooney
PA. Chiefs of Police
Chief Stone