

Town of McCANDLESS POLICE DEPARTMENT

9955 GRUBBS ROAD
WEXFORD, PA. 15090

TEL. 412-364-2250 931-2916

OFFICE OF THE
CHIEF OF POLICE

July 30, 1997

The Honorable Jane Orie
One Wexford Professional Building
11676 Perry Highway
Suite 1307
Wexford, Pennsylvania 15090

House Bill 1154

Dear Ms. Orie

Following your request for comments on the referenced legislation I wanted to provide you with some thoughts.

- I find it inappropriate to include an officer's social security number on an identification card of this type. The officer's home address and family information is often available to independent parties who make requests for social security number traces. This could jeopardize the officers and their families.
- It may be appropriate for the legislature to require police departments to implement exact policy as it pertains to uniform attire that would assure authenticity.
- Officer Safety could easily be compromised in circumstances where the card must be exhibited in physical arrests situations. Evidence of crimes could also be disposed of during this period.
- It would seem to me to be unnecessary and potentially confusing to identify any police officer as either part time or full time.
- Specific restrictions on who may use " police type " red and blue lighting should be considered. Presently it can and is used by more than just police officers and not all police are required to use the same lighting. This should be quickly defined.
- The open vendor market for police equipment and supplies should be regulated in an effort to prevent unauthorized individuals from obtaining police uniforms and equipment. At the minimum vendors should be required to provide information to a centralized source as to whom they have sold this equipment to if they were not an identified or known law enforcement officer.

- 2 -

July 30, 1997

- I would speculate that within a short period of time the identification cards will be counterfeited in a fashion similar to the photo identification cards and operators licenses currently are. The legislation then becomes of little value.

Remember that municipal police agencies use far fewer unmarked patrol vehicles than do the Pennsylvania State Police or Commonwealth Constables who are not included in this legislation.

It is my belief that very few laws exist in the Crimes Code that can be used with a large degree of success in the prosecution of the " imposter ". However, this bill could result in a significant compromise and or punishment of law enforcement.

Legislation does not need to be enacted that applies more burdens to municipal police departments rather it needs enacted to:

- Assist law enforcement in the apprehension of imposters.
- Make an effort at preventing imposters.
- Penalize imposters.

As always if I can be of any service to you please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Gary W. Anderson
Acting Chief of Police