

January 24, 2024

The Honorable Robert E. Craven, Sr.
Chairman, House Judiciary Committee
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: House Bill Number: 7263 Relating to State Affairs and Government – Law Enforcement Bill of Rights

Dear Chairman Craven and Judiciary Committee Members:

I am writing to the Committee today regarding House Bill 7263 “Relating to State Affairs and Government – Law Enforcement Bill of Rights” on behalf of the League of Cities and Towns.

During Summer 2020, the RI League of Cities and Towns established a working group to consider reforms to LEOBOR, many of which have been incorporated in H7263.

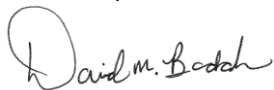
Additionally, over the past several years, members have been working closely with stakeholders, including the Rhode Island Police Chiefs’ Association, to ensure that we can achieve our shared goals.

We respectfully raise the following consideration:

- **Posting of officers’ names.** While we applaud this legislation for not precluding a chief from making a public statement at their discretion, we oppose requiring names of officers who are in process of being disciplined to be posted online. Mandatory disclosure should occur once the hearing process is complete and if the panel upholds the recommendation of discipline in cases of violations of policy regarding use of force, honesty or integrity.

We appreciate the committee’s attention to this important topic and encourage you to adopt substantive reforms that will improve transparency and accountability in law enforcement agencies.

Sincerely,



David M. Bodah
Associate Director

Cc: Representative Carol Hagan McEntee, First Vice Chair
Representative Jason Knight, Second Vice Chair
Ernie Almonte, Executive Director, RILCT