

**From:** [Rick Chellman](#)  
**To:** [DOJ: Commission on Law Enforcement Accountability](#)  
**Subject:** LEACT Commission  
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**Attachments:** [PastedGraphic-3.tiff](#)

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I thank your group for the time and effort you have invested in these important and complex matters.

As a former Selectman and resident in both urban and rural areas in NH, I know from personal experience that situations vary as do local regulations and practices.

I am also a practicing engineer and my practice requires me to maintain 49 different licenses throughout the US. I bring that up to note that while a lot can be learned from other locations, New Hampshire is different from other States in many ways and this must be recognized as policies are considered and adapted. That which may, for example, be a good idea in Rhode Island may be much less so in New Hampshire, the same for Nashua compared with Colebrook.

I am very concerned that the current national climate has created a situation in which reaction too often is being valued above consideration and evaluation of options. I think it fair to say that the vast majority of sworn officers are well-intentioned people doing the job as they are trained to do it, and without malice of prejudice. I know that is the case here in Portsmouth.

That noted, I also believe there is an unnecessary public image problem and too much of a one side or the other of the “blue line” that some officers and their representatives have made into a problem that should not exist.

By this I mean the Exculpatory Evidence Schedule (formerly known as the “Laurie List”). Good officers and your group should not defend such a list and I am in full agreement with testimony I heard recently from a retired Chief of police who said any officer who did something that could lead to them being on such a list simply should no longer be a police officer- anywhere.

To claim that such a list is a private personnel matter is a weak and specious claim that only casts an unnecessary pall over the good officers who make up the vast majority. Please recommend doing away with any such secret lists, as a matter of public policy in case the recent Court decision is overturned or a new and similar list is considered.

I also urge extreme caution with any recommendation for something that is or can be construed as an absolute or as a mandatory standard. Police officers engage in situations so varied that discretion has to be a part of what they do and by which they are judged- both by their peers and the public. This of course especially includes the use of force, which is too complicated to try to simplify into bullet points, and which unfortunately must be a part of the set of tools an officer can call upon as the particular situation demands.

I fully support more training, which is education and more of that will be good for the officers

and the public.

Finally, please include an acknowledgment in your final remarks about the good work that most officers in New Hampshire are doing and have done. It would be a shame for your work to end up as only a compilation of complaints that could then in turn deepen any divide between the police and the public they serve.

Thank-you again for your work.

Respectfully Submitted,

[Rick Chellman, P.E., L.L.S.](#)

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