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To: [DOJ: Commission on Law Enforcement Accountability](#)
Subject: Testimony from Chief Steve Monier (Ret.) - Goffstown
Date: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 12:30:49 PM

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General MacDonald -

Thank you for allowing me to address the Commission this morning. Below is a summary of my testimony to the Commission, for it's consideration as you deliberate on your recommendations & report. Here are some general statements that I believe it would be good to keep in mind, as the Commission carefully chooses the wording for a final document:

- **It's OK to be proud of what NH Law Enforcement** has accomplished in the last several decades, to wit:
 - One of the most consistent & lowest crime rates of any state in the nation.
 - A unified police academy for all law enforcement officers overseen by the Police Standards & Training Council, which has broad representation from law enforcement, the judicial & educational systems, with appointment by the Governor.
 - Law enforcement controlled by civilians at the local level.
- **Be positive & be proactive.** Emphasize that police science is an evolutionary process. There are always things the law enforcement profession should be striving to do better, as we work to fairly & impartially enforce the law for *all* of our citizens. List what some of those things are for improvement, that are available to us. **Sound hiring practices, and training**, of course, should be two of those things. Remember that anything mandated by the state which affects local communities must be paid for.
- **Talk about racial and economic inequities in our justice system *in NH* honestly.** The national media has failed miserably on this, painting a broad brush that vilifies all police. Avoid this at all cost. Every state is different; make this NH specific. Those who have served on national commissions, know this. Be positive.
- **Emphasize that law enforcement is a community responsibility.** Police are simply paid to do full-time what is everyone's responsibility, i.e. to help keep all of us safe (the fundamental purpose of government); to raise the next generation to be civically minded; & to preserve the nation's principles at our founding: that all people are created equal & that we have an inalienable right to the pursuit of life, liberty & happiness.
- **Be color blind.** We shouldn't fall into the narrative that a "white cop" killed a "black" person. A corrupt cop killed George Floyd, in Minneapolis. Dr. Martin Luther King prayed for the U.S. to become a color blind society. He was right. I do not mean by this, that we should not work to root out corruption, racism, or economic injustice wherever it may exist, only that we should collectively strive

for the ideals & promise of America.

- **The Accreditation process** is one means by which agencies can ensure that they are doing the things necessary to maintain up-to-date standards & best practices, to help ensure that they are providing the best service possible to their citizens.
- **A note on some amendments to the Right to Know law.** If there is one issue about "accountability" I hear the most, it's the frustration the public feels when it doesn't know who the bad cops are (or the bad teachers, or bad school administrators). Due process should be afforded to everyone, of course, but after adjudication (administrative or criminal) shine the light of day on our problem people. That will establish greater trust with the public. Sunshine is an antiseptic to bad behavior.
- **The NH Association of Chiefs of Police has been part of NH's landscape for more than six decades.** Their members have the expertise, training, and experience to be a tremendous resource to the Commission, the Governor, and our legislative & judicial branches.

Thank you again for your work as you move through the Commission process. I remain,

Respectfully,

Chief Steve Monier (Ret.)
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