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“Trumbull Police Union Endorses State Senate Candidate Steve Choi”

By the Men and Women of the Trumbull Police Union:

The Trumbull Police Union, as an organization, has prided itself on remaining neutral in matters of politics. We have taken this position because we, in good faith, trust our elected officials on both sides of the aisle to pursue legislation that focuses on law & order, public safety, and support for victims of crime who we serve and protect in our municipality. This year, we made the decision to break with the longstanding tradition of political neutrality in our endorsement of State Senate Candidate Steve Choi for the 22nd District in the November 3, 2020 election.

When state lawmakers introduced HB 6004, An Act Concerning Police Accountability, Steve Choi called the Trumbull Police Union President to get the membership input on the proposed legislation. Unfortunately, some incumbent lawmakers declined to contact us. When serious critiques of the bill began to surface in local newspapers we were invited to participate in a listening session, however our voices were not considered when the bill was rushed through the Connecticut legislature.

Steve has expressed support for the common-sense reforms contained in HB 6004 such as the expansion of utilizing patrol car dash cameras, body-worn cameras for officers, and the duty to intervene to stop the use of excessive force. But he opposes the radical mandates in the legislation that will make enforcement of the law more difficult. The change in the use of force standard, the inability to conduct consent searches allowable by US Supreme Court case law, and the loss of qualified immunity are among the provisions in the new legislation that will remove investigative tools from the men and women who help ensure your families' safety. Steve has pledged to sponsor and support revisions to the Police Accountability Act that will ensure law enforcement officers are able to police effectively.

In addition, Steve supports maintaining funding for school resource officers (SRO's) in our middle and high school. He believes that SRO's are vital to the safety of students in Trumbull Public Schools. To quote Choi, *“As with any good community policing effort, SRO's build relationships of trust with students, teachers, administrators, and school staff. SRO's help kids in trouble and are successful in preventing an incident before it occurs.”* We believe police officers provide a safe environment for students to learn and can be positive role models for young adults. We do not wish to see school resource officers or other critical public safety resources “defunded” by some local, state, and federal elected officials or any political candidate who has been endorsed in years past or present by the Working Families Party, a party that openly calls for police departments across the country to be defunded.

We need leaders who listen. Whether you are a registered Democrat, Republican or Independent, we believe the person who represents the community should consider all viewpoints and perspectives before making crucial decisions that will affect public safety for decades to come. We believe Steve Choi is the leader who will help keep the residents of Trumbull safe in his support for law and order. We humbly ask the public to support Steve Choi, candidate for State Senate, 22nd district. The men and women of the Trumbull Police Union are proud to serve and protect the citizens and visitors of the Town of Trumbull, and we will always be there for our community.