



## RHODE ISLAND POLICE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION

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March 4, 2021

The Honorable Raymond Hull  
Chairman, House Committee on Municipal Government & Housing  
House Lounge - State House  
Providence, RI 02903

### **RE: House Bill No. H5815 Relating to Towns and Cities – Emergency Police Powers**

Dear Chairman Hull:

I am writing on behalf of the Rhode Island Police Chiefs' Association (RIPCA) to voice our support for the bill referenced above, which will allow any city or town or higher education institute to contract with another city or town or higher education institute to provide non-emergency police assistance.

As law enforcement training continues to become more complex and in certain disciplines more specific many agencies find themselves in need of assistance during events which wouldn't be constituted as an emergency such as college graduation exercises or city wide preplanned events. Over the years the hosting agency of such an event has relied on varied approaches to increasing manpower. Often times swearing in sheriffs and officers from out of state on a day by day basis. To say the least, this approach causes concerns for liability and accountability along with tremendous paperwork. The proposed legislation would allow agencies requesting assistance to have written contracts with assisting departments which outline all duties and requirements. We have long had agreements to assist during emergencies, it is now time to formalize similar needs in non-emergency situations.

Thank you for allowing me to submit this written testimony on behalf of the RIPCA and as always am available for any follow-up questions you or the committee may have.

Respectfully submitted,

Sidney Wordell  
Executive Director  
Rhode Island Police Chiefs' Association

