

To Whom It May Concern:

As residents of Connecticut, we urge the Criminal Justice Commission to search for and appoint a Chief State's Attorney who will publicly commit to using their role to end mass incarceration and eliminate racial disparities in the criminal justice system.

The over-criminalization of youth of color during Kevin Kane's tenure, has led to an increase in car chases and excessive use of force by police, which has sadly ended in multiple fatalities. The racial discrepancies in criminalization have made communities of color distrust and fear the police presence in their neighborhoods, particularly in major cities. The Chief State's Attorney has the power to eliminate these disparities by:

- Prohibiting police from engaging in car chases and car shootings.
- Banning the use of facial recognition technology by police across the State.
- Destroying any existing database that criminalizes people based in their appearance, race/ethnicity, skin color, sexual or gender identity, apparel, place of residence, or people they like to hang out with, and strongly prohibit the creation of such database by any police department at the local and State level.
- Establish a system for the Independent Civilian Review of police misconduct at the State level and work with local police departments across the State to create independent Civilian Review Boards with subpoena power.
- Enforce the prosecution of police misconduct and remove from the police department any officer that engages in excessive use of force and abuse of power.

Aside from this, Connecticut has one of the largest rates of disproportionately imprisoning Black and Latino adults.

In order to end mass incarceration, the new Chief State Attorney must focus on:

- Stopping the prosecution of insufficient and insignificant cases. This includes a cease on the criminalization of poverty and mental health, and on the prosecution of small possession of controlled substances.
- Review past convictions and free the wrongfully convicted.
- Significantly reduce the cash bail system and eliminate the imprisonment of individuals solely for not being able to afford bail.
- Treat addiction as an illness, not as a crime. This includes any person currently incarcerated for possession and use of controlled substances.
- Give undocumented immigrants the protection and safety that the Constitution affords to any resident in the State and ensure that the Trust Act is fully implemented across Connecticut.

Sincerely,

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