

Dupuis, Mark

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**From:** Takina Pollock Shafer [mailto:tkpollock@gmail.com]  
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To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Takina Pollock Shafer, a resident of Bridgeport. The next Chief States Attorney has a responsibility to uphold their role in ending police violence, as well as decreasing mass incarceration in Connecticut.

Under Kevin Kane's tenure, the people of Connecticut witnessed poorly handled instances of police violence, which have resulted in the deaths of residents across the state, including youth, and the abuse of countless others, with little to no repercussions. Connecticut is deserving of a States Attorney who will make external, independent investigations of police violence a requirement. Police officers under investigation for use of excessive or lethal force should be held to a standard which discourages violent behavior in police officers across the state, and upholds the rights, dignity, and safety of the people they serve. Candidates for this position should have a proven track record and plan to stop police violence in Connecticut.

Connecticut deserves a Chief States Attorney committed to their role in ending mass incarceration and ending existing legal disparities across race, and a focus on making Connecticut a model for such practices. Connecticut youth deserve someone who does not advocate for the destruction of their lives as common practice for theft of property. Instead, the youth of Connecticut, and their families, deserve someone with a focus on restorative justice, advocating for nonjudicial alternatives when possible. The people of Connecticut deserve transparency and a Chief States Attorney with strong ethics to stand up against a system proven to disproportionately harm People of Color (POC) and people living in poverty. Candidates for this position should have a proven track record and plan to focus on promoting restorative justice as a pathway to decreasing mass incarceration.

Thank you,

Takina Pollock Shafer