

**Connecticut's  
#1**



**Law  
Enforcement  
Union**

## **Council 4's Law Enforcement 2025 Legislative Victories**

***AFSCME Council 4 delivers results for all of our members who courageously carry the badge and shoulder the tremendous weight that comes with it.***

### **Guaranteeing Due Process Protections for Officers**

The CT Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST) put out a directive that curtailed officer ability to view body or dash cam footage prior to a disciplinary proceeding. The directive limited an officer's right to see footage prior to a disciplinary proceeding only if a potential charge of excessive force was involved. **Council 4 helped pass legislation granting police officers the right to review body-worn camera footage prior to any disciplinary proceeding—protecting our members rights to due process and enhancing transparency.**

### **Prevented Legislation that Criminalized Inaccurate Reports**

Council 4 beat back legislation that would have made including false information in a police report a Class D Felony and cause for de-certification. The proposed bill was overly broad, onerous, and would have opened the door for baseless, arbitrary discipline of officers who made honest mistakes.

### **Stopped Legislation that Allowed Towns/Cities with Less Than 50,000 Residents to Regionalize Police Departments**

A proposed bill would have allowed towns with less than 50,000 residents (***as of 2025, Torrington has 35,000 residents***) to regionalize police departments. Regionalization inevitably results in job losses, often results in the reduction of pay or benefits to impacted municipal employees, and can result and significant reduction in the quality of services. **By preventing the passage of this bill, AFSCME Council 4 protected YOUR jobs!**

### **Defining “First Responder” and “Essential Worker**

A working group has been established to develop statutory definitions for “First Responder” and “Essential Worker” which will provide a uniform definition so all first responders get the recognition and respect they deserve. Dispatchers and emergency personnel will have an important voice in this process.

### **Guaranteeing A CMERS or Equivalent Pension for All Municipal Police Officers**

**Council 4 made significant progress fighting for legislation that would require all municipalities to offer their municipal police officers a defined-benefit pension plan, through CMERS or an equivalent plan. We are continuing to fight for your right to retire with dignity, after dedicating your life to protecting and serving your community, at the legislature this year.**

### **Adding “Serious Bodily Injury” as a Qualifier for PTSD Workers Compensation Coverage, for Municipal Police Officers, Firefighters, and State Correction Officers**

**Council 4 made significant progress fighting for legislation that would adjust the State of Connecticut's overly-restrictive definition of PTSD for Workers' Compensation benefits, a definition that flagrantly refuses to acknowledge our modern medical understanding of mental health. We are continuing to fight for this at the legislature, this year, because it is not fair that our local law enforcement officers are asked to make incredible sacrifices every day for the well-being of others, and yet, are being denied support when you need it most.**

To learn more and get involved, contact Council 4 Legislative and Political staff Michael Adams and Zak Leavy at [political@council4.org](mailto:political@council4.org).