

Dear Neighbor,

From year to year, public safety is a constant in our discussions at the Capitol. The hope to provide our families and loved ones a safe and secure place to live guides nonstop debate. This past legislative session, I worked hard to be your voice during these debates and represent your thoughts and concerns.

As you read this newsletter, you will find that Connecticut is taking important steps towards a better future. With initiatives ranging from increased criminal penalties to better public safety training, there is no doubt that we are making the right decisions for the tough problems our communities face.

With your support and involvement, I will continue to demand the best our state has to offer us. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (800) 842-8267. I am here to help. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Peter Villano

LOCAL NUMBERS TO KNOW

- Emergency Services..... 911
- Hamden Town Hall..... (203) 287-7000
- Hamden Police Dept..... (203) 230-4000
- Hamden Dog Warden..... (203) 230-4080
- Hamden Fire Dept..... (203) 407-5880
- Hamden Emergency Management..... (203) 407-5880
- Quinnipiac Valley Health Dist..... (203) 248-4528

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2007 PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE



from

**State
Representative
Peter F. Villano**

Hamden's 91st District



KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE, KEEPING YOU SAFE

There are far too many stories of children and joggers being hit by careless drivers while trying to cross the street. With the help of the state legislature, that will change for the better. This year a change to the law has brought a doubling of the fines for drivers who do not yield to pedestrians at a crosswalk. This important measure is a move towards making our streets a better and safer place for everyone. Fines Change: \$93 - \$182 PA 07-167 (SB 1400)

JESSICA'S LAW ENACTED TO TOUGHEN SENTENCES FOR CHILD SEX PREDATORS

The General Assembly unanimously passed legislation commonly known as "Jessica's Law" that is designed to give prosecutors and police the tools necessary to send child sex predators to prison for a long time. This legislation will create a new crime of "aggravated sexual assault of a minor" for adults who commit a sex offense against a child under the age of 13 and will carry a mandatory minimum prison term of 25 years for a first offense and 50 years for a second offense. This crime would be triggered by any child sex predator who, for example, kidnaps, restrains, stalks, or causes serious injury to the victim; commits the same offense against more than one victim; or has been previously convicted of sexual assault.

In addition, the legislation also sets a new mandatory minimum sentence of 5 years for anyone who possesses or imports child pornography, has sexual contact with a child under age 13, or entices a minor into sexual contact through the use of a computer or the Internet. A 10 year minimum sentence will be set for anyone who employs a minor in an obscene performance. While all of these acts are already crimes, this legislation sets new mandatory minimum sentences under which predators will be sent to prison. PA 07-143 (SB 1458)



CRIMINAL HISTORY BACKGROUND CHECKS, CHILD PORNOGRAPHY, REPEATED FALSE ALARMS AND THE DESTRUCTION OF SEIZED FIREWORKS

This bill makes several unrelated changes. The bill:

1. limits the type of access defendants in criminal proceedings can have to child pornography material in the state's custody;
2. allows the public safety commissioner to adopt regulations to implement the criminal history record check provisions of one state and three federal laws;
3. prohibits courts from ordering that illegal fireworks be held pending final disposition of a case involving such fireworks and instead allows the court to order them destroyed after they are inventoried and photographed; and
4. establishes fines for repeated false alarms that result in a State Police response, ranging from \$25 for the fourth offense to \$100 for the seventh and subsequent offenses. It exempts state, municipal, and federal buildings from such fines.

PA 07-246 (HB 7269)



MAINTAINING AQUATIC LAWS

Recreational boating, although fun and exciting, may also have its emergencies. This year, the legislature passed a bill that clarifies the law on the waters of Connecticut. When you're driving your car and you see flashing lights and hear sirens you must pull to the side. Now, the same applies when you're on a boat. When an official law enforcement or rescue boat is on its way to an emergency you must move out of its way. This is a common sense law that will help public safety personnel perform their duties and make all boaters safer.

PA 07-179 (SB 429)

FIREFIGHTER I TRAINING

The Connecticut General Assembly, realizing the high cost of training our paid and volunteer firefighters, will now be reimbursing municipalities and state agencies for one-half the cost of the Firefighter I certification program.

Firefighters who are paid personnel must be certified as Firefighter I and II, which are their entry level criteria. Volunteer personnel must be certified as Firefighter I prior to being able to enter a building which is on fire. PA 07-4 (SB 1500)

