

9 February 2021

Chair Smith

Testimony on HB0227 Improperly Summoning a Police Officer Civil Liability

Mr Chair, Mr. Vice Chair Members of this esteemed Committee:

These instances when an officer is improperly summonsed due to a biased 911 call initiate an emergency response to a non-emergency, and that has the potential to needlessly escalate tensions between officers and civilians. When an officer is called to a scene, the expectation is that the police are responding to an emergency situation where peoples lives could potentially be in danger. Because of this assumption, officers senses are heightened and that creates a more dangerous situation for both officers and civilians alike. Frivolous 911 calls also make it more difficult for officers to discern which situations are actual emergencies and which ones are not. In addition, these calls end up being a waste on police resources as money and time are spent in order to get officers to a scene and investigate a situation. Police then end up finding secondary infractions that they weren't looking for in the first place. Thank You for your Time Mr.Chair I urge a favorably report.

Yours in service,

Kendal Wade