

HARTFORD ACTION

June 11, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hartford Action Expresses Respect for Police Chief Rovella: An Open Letter

Dear Police Chief Rovella:

HARTFORD, CT: First of all, Hartford Action would like to extend our thoughts and support to both Hartford community member Tyrinde Mason-Thompson and Police Officer Tyrell Jenkins for the injuries related to the incident last Tuesday night, June 9, 2015. Our concern also goes out to the friends and families of both men, for whom we wish a quick and complete recovery.

Hartford Action would like to sincerely thank you and the Hartford Police Department (HPD) for your swift and transparent response to the officer-involved shooting last Tuesday night. You have shown a commendable willingness to rebuild trust and reduce conflict between law enforcement and Hartford community members. We believe that this level of honest communication and timely release of information along with the commitment to an independent investigation by State Police and the Connecticut State Attorney will be a model for communities across the country. We also appreciate your efforts to minimize any possible negative impact of this incident on city residents.

While we deeply respect how this incident is being handled and investigated by your department, Hartford Action is committed to holding you and the HPD to a high level of accountability based on the standards and expectations you have set for ensuring the safety of the Hartford community. Our dedication to a critical and comprehensive analysis of the way law enforcement operates in communities of color means that we will not hesitate to call out injustice when it occurs. Likewise, we will continue to recognize and commend demonstrations of appropriate and reasonable police activity as has been shown with the handling of this incident.

In sum, Hartford Action will continue to work with you and Hartford community members to improve police-community relations and empower our residents to advocate for progressive policy changes that will make our city safer for all people, especially communities of color. The eyes of Hartford Action, of the city, and of the nation are closely watching the precedent-setting actions of your department. Our primary hope is that you and your department will build and sustain what we view as true and durable progress in police-community relationships in the city of Hartford.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hartford Action
hartfordaction@gmail.com
860-785-4384
www.facebook.com/hartfordaction/

Hartford Action seeks to empower communities to advocate for progressive policy changes and improve the relationship between the Greater Hartford community and the criminal justice system.