Bismarck POLICE

March 9, 2023

From: Dave Draovitch
Chief of Police

To: Representative Dan Ruby, Chairman, and Members of the Transportation Committee

Subj: SB 2348

I come before you today to seek your support for SB 2348. The City of Bismarck, as well as many other communities in ND, are experiencing many incidents of people fleeing from the police when we initiate a traffic stop. Sometimes the officers don't even get a chance to initiate a stop, the people flee as soon as they see the police car.

The way people flee from the police is without regard for the public's safety. I am amazed that we have not had more serious accidents in which people are seriously injured or killed. In fact, I am very thankful that two of our officers were not killed when a fleeing suspect hit their police car at 70-80 MPH. The officers had no idea there was a fleeing vehicle in the area as the officer that was initiating the stop had no time to warn anyone about the fleeing vehicle. Our public is at this same risk every time a vehicle flees from the police.

There are so many dangerous fleeing incidents that we have teamed with the North Dakota Highway Patrol (NDHP) and the North Dakota National Guard (ND NG) for air support to run special operations in an effort to catch those responsible for the fleeing incidents. These efforts have been successful, but it is not possible to have these special operations on a consistent basis.

I have also submitted our 2022 Pursuit Analysis/Attempting to Elude Incidents report for your review. I believe the report will give you a clear view of what we are facing.

Although I cannot speak to specifics, many of the Chiefs of Police across the State of North Dakota experience similar issues and have similar concerns as we do in Bismarck.

I thank you for the time I have been allowed to provide information about this very important Bill and I thank you for considering supporting it as it is written today.

If you have any questions feel free to contact me at your convenience. I may be reached at ddraovitch@bismarcknd.gov or 701-223-1212.

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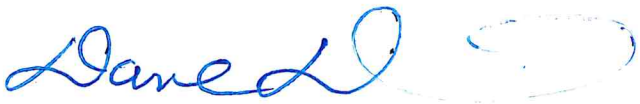
Respectfully,



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