Police Chief Christopher Chute

New Britain Police Department

10 Chestnut Street

New Britain, CT 06501

Re: Citizen Demand for Implementation of ***8 Can’t Wait*** *Reforms*

Dear Chief Chute:

The recent death of George Floyd deeply distresses me. As a resident of New Britain, I share your concern for the safety and well-being of our citizens.

I thank you for the steps you and the officers under your command have already taken toward police reform and accountability. I also appreciate the state-wide efforts of the Connecticut Police Accountability & Transparency Task Force. All of these are positive steps forward. Still, more must be done.

It is encouraging that in New Britain, there has only been two officer involved deaths from 2013 – 2017 and none in 2018 and 2019. Those numbers do not mean, however, that the city is free of police brutality. Excessive force and racial bias in *all* police departments must stop NOW, before another person is injured or killed.

I respectfully request that you put in place the **8 Can’t Wait** ([www.8cantwait.org](http://www.8cantwait.org)) reforms that have not yet been implemented in New Britain. The data proves the **8 Can’t Wait** policies have led to a reduction in officer involved deaths and an increase in public trust.

Across the country, larger cities are able to view their city’s score card at [www.8cantwait.org](http://www.8cantwait.org). As of [date], Connecticut has no data in this database, which is disappointing, as Connecticut citizens are unable to see where we stand, what progress has been made and what improvements are needed. The executive order recently signed by Governor Lamont does address banning chokeholds and strangle holds and requires officers to intervene when they see other officers engaging in wrongdoing, but that is only a beginning.

I want to see all **8 Can’t Wait** reforms adopted and practiced in New Britain and across the state.

1. Ban Chokeholds and Strangleholds

2. Require De-Escalation

3. Require Warning Before Shooting

4. Requires Exhausting All Alternatives Before Shooting

5. Duty to Intervene

6. Ban Shooting at Moving Vehicles

7. Require Use of Force Continuum

8. Require Comprehensive Reporting

I call on you to produce a public, transparent, and comprehensive plan of action to implement the **8 Can’t Wait** policies by August 31, 2020.

Please inform me of your progress on or before this date.

Respectfully,

Your Fellow Citizen [Your Name]