Questionnaire for Connecticut Inspector General Applicants

1. Do you believe that (a) the Inspector General must acknowledge racial disparities in policing, prosecution, incarceration, and the criminal justice system overall and (b) the Inspector General has a responsibility to take affirmative steps to end systemic racial disparities? Please give a clear “Yes” or “No” to both subparts and any explanation.

2. Do you believe police officers should be held criminally liable for the unnecessary physical harm of Connecticut residents? Please give a clear “Yes” or “No” to the question and any explanation.

3. Do you believe police officers should be held criminally liable for the unnecessary killing of Connecticut residents? Please give a clear “Yes” or “No” to the question and any explanation.

4. Do you believe that the current statutory standard for determining when police are justified in using deadly physical force makes it clear that an officer is justified to use deadly physical force only when it is absolutely necessary? Please give a clear “Yes” or “No” to the question and any explanation.

5. Do you believe that the current statutory standard for determining when police are justified in using less than deadly physical force makes it clear that an officer is justified in using physical force only when it is absolutely necessary? Please give a clear “Yes” or “No” to the question and any explanation.

6. Do you believe that the standard in Public Act 20-1 for determining when police are justified in using deadly physical force that will be effective April 1, 2021 makes it clear that an officer is justified in using deadly physical force only when it is absolutely necessary? Please give a clear “Yes” or “No” to the question and any explanation.

7. Do you believe police officers should be protected from criminal liability when their use of physical force was reasonable under all the circumstances, but not absolutely necessary? Please give a clear “Yes” or “No” to the question and any explanation.

8. Will you commit to holding police accountable by supporting legislation to change Connecticut’s use of force standard to one in which killings by police are justified only if it is clear that police did not, through their actions, create a situation in which deadly force was necessary? Please give a clear “Yes” or “No” to the question and any explanation.

9. Will you commit to holding police accountable by supporting legislation to change Connecticut’s use of force standard to one in which killings by police are justified only if it is clear that the force used by police was the least amount of force needed in the situation? Please give a clear “Yes” or “No” to the question and any explanation?
10. Will you commit to holding police accountable by supporting legislation to change Connecticut’s use of force standard to one in which killings by police are justified only if it is clear that the force used was necessary because all available, effective alternatives had been exhausted? Please give a clear “Yes” or “No” to the question and any explanation.

11. Will you commit to holding an open, public meeting in the community where the police use of deadly force occurred, where, within 30 days after publishing your report on the deadly force investigation, you present your report and provide the community an opportunity to publicly comment on the report and/or the deadly force? Please give a clear “Yes” or “No” to the question and any explanation.

12. When you investigate a matter, will you commit to investigating the impact of the patterns, practices, and/or policies of the law enforcement unit(s) involved had on the subject matter under your investigation? Please give a clear “Yes” or “No” to the question and any explanation.

13. Will you commit to making licensure recommendations, including decertification and suspension recommendations, to the Police Officer Standards and Training Council if you find, after complete investigation, that a police officer has:
   (a) been unjustified in a use of physical force;
   (b) engaged in conduct that undermines public confidence in law enforcement, including, but not limited to, discriminatory conduct, falsification of reports, or violating the Alvin W. Penn Racial Profiling Prohibition Act; or
   (c) violated any policy of the law enforcement unit that employs the officer?
Please give a clear “Yes” or “No” to all question subparts and any explanation.

14. If, after a complete investigation, you find that a police officer (a) was unjustified in using physical force and/or (b) engaged in other criminal conduct, will you commit to moving forward with justice and redress for such actions to the greatest extent of your discretion? Please give a clear “Yes” or “No” to the question and any explanation.

15. Will you commit to holding police accountable by (a) supporting the creation, if such list does not yet exist, of a statewide “Brady List” of police officers excluded from testifying in criminal cases because of a proven history of lying or other professional or criminal misconduct, (b) making the “Brady List” available to the public on request, and (c) moving to ensure police officers that are on the statewide “Brady List” are decertified by the Police Officer Standards and Training Council? Please give a clear “Yes” or “No” to all question subparts and any explanation.

Please direct all responses to Melvin Medina at mmedina@acluct.org on or before the close of business on September 22, 2020.