



Herman Woodard, Jr.

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 provide a clear “Yes” or “No” answer to both subparts and any explanation you wish to offer.

- (a) Racial discrimination should not be allowed to play any role in our criminal justice system.
- (b) Yes. Ensuring that all work done by the Inspector General is free of bias and discrimination is taking affirmative steps to end systemic racial disparities.

2. Do you believe police officers should be held criminally liable when they cause unnecessary physical harm of Connecticut residents? Please provide a clear “Yes” or “No” answer and any explanation you wish to offer.

Yes, police officers who use excessive force in violation of state law against residents and non-residents should be held criminally liable.

3. Do you believe police officers should be held criminally liable when they unnecessarily kill Connecticut residents? Please provide a clear “Yes” or “No” answer and any explanation you wish to offer.

Yes. Violations of state deadly force laws by police officers should be prosecuted.

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

No. The standard as is indicated in Connecticut General Statutes Section 53a-22 does not describe the standard as absolutely necessary.



5. Do you believe that the standard in Public Act 21-4 for determining when police are allowed to use deadly physical force, which took effect January 1, 2022, makes it clear that an officer is allowed to use deadly physical force only when it is absolutely necessary? Please provide a clear “Yes” or “No” answer and any explanation you wish to offer.

No. The standard is not described as absolute necessity in Public Act 21-4 (Conn. Gen Stat. Sec. 53a-22)

6. 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 provide a clear “Yes” or “No” answer and any explanation you wish to offer.

The Inspector General must enforce the standard as it appears in Connecticut General Statute Section 53a-22. Any change to the standard should be left to the legislature.

7. Will you commit to holding police accountable by supporting policy proposals that change Connecticut's use of force standard to one in which killings by police are only allowed if it is clear that police did not, through their actions, create a situation in which deadly force was necessary? Please provide a clear “Yes” or “No” answer and any explanation you wish to offer.

If selected, I would hold the police to the standard as stated in Public Act 20-2 (Conn. Gen Stat. Sec. 53a-22) which indicates that one factor to consider is whether a police officer's conduct led to an increased risk of the act occurring which led to the use of deadly force.

8. Will you commit to holding police accountable by supporting policy proposals that change Connecticut's use of force standard to one in which killings by police are only allowed if it is clear that the force used by police was the minimum necessary to resolve the situation? Please provide a clear “Yes” or “No” answer and any explanation you wish to offer.

The use of force must always be objectively reasonable. Where the deadly force used is not objectively reasonable the police should be held accountable.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut is a nonpartisan, non-profit membership organization that defends, promotes and preserves individual rights and liberties under the U.S. and Connecticut constitutions in state and federal court, the General Assembly, and the state's 169 towns and cities.



9. Will you commit to holding police accountable by supporting policy proposals that change Connecticut's use of force standard to one in which killings by police are only allowed if it is clear that the force used by police was necessary because all other available, effective alternatives had been exhausted? Please provide a clear "Yes" or "No" answer and any explanation you wish to offer.

Police use of deadly force must be objectively reasonable under the given circumstances at that time. I am committed to holding police accountable if they deviate from this standard.

10. Will you commit to holding an open, public meeting in the community where a police use of deadly force occurred, within 30 days after publishing your report on the investigation, to present your report and provide the community an opportunity to publicly comment on it and/or the incident? Please provide a clear "Yes" or "No" answer and any explanation you wish to offer.

If selected to be the next Inspector General, I would commit to interacting with affected communities prior to the incidents of deadly force. I would also commit to meeting with an affected community after a use of deadly force incident. Communication and interaction with the community is of paramount importance. All Inspector General Reports shall be made public and clearly indicate the basis for all conclusions.

11. When you investigate a matter, will you commit to investigating the impact the patterns, practices, and/or policies of law enforcement unit(s) involved had on the subject matter under your investigation? Please provide a clear "Yes" or "No" answer and any explanation you wish to offer.

Yes. Understanding the practices and policies of law enforcement has had on the subject matter under investigation is important.



12. 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:

1. used physical force unjustifiably;
2. 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
3. violated any policy of the law enforcement unit employing the officer?

Please provide a clear “Yes” or “No” answer to all subparts and any explanation you wish to offer.

Where a police officer’s conduct has deviated from the use of deadly force standard, but was not criminal thus not warranting prosecution, I would where appropriate make recommendations to the Police Officer Standard and Training Counsel.

13. If, after a complete investigation, you find that a police officer (a) used physical force unjustifiably and/or (b) engaged in other criminal conduct, will you commit to pursuing justice and redress for such actions to the greatest extent of your discretion? Please provide a clear “Yes” or “No” answer to all subparts and any explanation you wish to offer.

Yes.

14. Will you commit to holding police accountable by (a) supporting the creation of a statewide "Brady List" available to the public upon request, and (b) ensuring police officers that are on the statewide "Brady List" are decertified by the Police Officer Standards and Training Council? Please provide a clear “Yes” or “No” answer to all subparts and any explanation you wish to offer.

No. I believe that the creation of a statewide “Brady List” is outside the purview of the Inspector General.

15. Will you commit to fairness and transparency by supporting policy proposals that require uniform policies and procedures to be promulgated by the Division of Criminal Justice Advisory Board for all 13 state's attorneys?

Please provide a clear “Yes” or “No” answer to all subparts and any explanation you wish to offer.

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Yes, as the Inspector General, I would be fully committed to fairness and transparency. I would support any policy proposals promulgated by the Division of Criminal Justice.

Please direct all responses to Chelsea-Infinity Gonzalez at cgonzalez@acluct.org on or before the close of business on April 21, 2025.