

Testimony of Sharon A. Dean on STEP bill

Good evening Council members, my name is Sharon Dean, a member of civic groups, and a parent of a police officer protecting and serving in Georgia.

STEP endangers life, so I will be extremely candid with no apologies. Traffic stops often result in uncovering drugs, weapons, and warrants – also, they are responsible for the capture of terrorists and serial killers. STEP would end the protections in our county.

Timothy McVeigh was stopped for a missing registration tag, STEP would allow him to go free.

Ted Bundy doused his headlights, STEP would likely give him a pass.

Son of Sam -- stopped for an unpaid traffic ticket.

A post 9-11 Al-Qaeda terrorist was foiled in a traffic stop, Google it.

There are hundreds of these “saves” that STEP would sacrifice. Three recent local stops sparing citizens from possible death and addiction:

- 2,000 fentanyl pills and a loaded gun confiscated -- Chief Jones said we will never be able to quantify the lives saved as a result.
- A semi-automatic rifle and drugs confiscated.
- An arrest for possession with intent to distribute fentanyl, meth, and cocaine.

STEP has cherry-picked stats claiming minorities are stopped more often for traffic violations. The *Governor's Crime Prevention Report* proves this untrue. Whites are stopped more frequently than minorities. STEP claims minorities are stopped more frequently for minor traffic infractions, but where is the proof? STEP sponsors must stop promoting the myth of minority bias.

We are amidst a crime wave. Reimagining the police – a report and policies -- drove resignations, because officers felt unable to protect us. STEP makes officers more impotent, and the public more endangered. Council member Jawando was stopped for traffic violations on the list forbidden by STEP. He claims it was because he's a minority. Is STEP a payoff to MCPD? Council member Mink called the police when she got a flat. Entitlement? Or fear of becoming a crime victim? If so, why further enfeeble the police with STEP?

STEP is dangerous! Council members, will your consciences allow you to vote to permit murderers and terrorists to roam freely on our roads?