

Youth Car Theft in CT:

Trends and Steps to Improve Public Safety

Thursday, September 23, 2021, 12:00pm-1:30pm via webinar

Over the past years there has been considerable media attention paid to youth car thefts in a number of parts of the state. This webinar is directed at establishing the facts of the situation and possible next steps to address the issue.

Welcome Remarks

Lyle Wray, Executive Director Emeritus, Capitol Region Council of Governments

Mohamad Alkadry, Head, UConn Department of Public Policy

Moderator

Kelan Lyons, Journalist, CT Mirror

Presenter

Ken Barone, Project Manager, Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy

Panelists

Vernon Riddick, Chief of Police, Town of West Hartford

Toni Walker, CT State Representative, 93rd District, New Haven

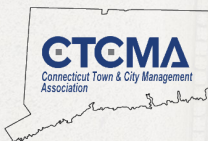
Craig Fishbein, CT State Representative, 90th District, Cheshire and Wallingford

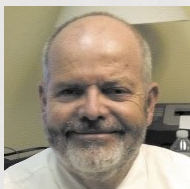
Michael Lawlor, Associate Professor, University of New Haven

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Sponsors:





Lyle Wray, Executive Director Emeritus, Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG)

Dr. Wray has served as Executive Director of CRCOG in Hartford since 2004. Previously he served in the Minnesota area as Executive Director of the Ventura County Civic Alliance, Executive Director of the Citizens League, and Dakota County Administrator & HR Director in The Twin Cities.

Originally from Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada, Lyle earned a doctorate in psychology from the University of Manitoba. He has had a variety of international teaching & consulting experiences in e-government, performance measurement, civil society and human resources. He co-authored *Results That Matter*, published by J. Wiley in 2006. He was elected as a fellow of the [National Academy of Public Administration](#) in 2015. and was elected President of the [Community Indicators Consortium](#) in 2017.



Dr. Mohamad Alkadry, Department Head and Professor, UConn Department of Public Policy

Mohamad G. Alkadry serves as a Professor and Head of the [Department of Public Policy](#) at the University of Connecticut. He previously held academic and administrative appointments, and was tenured at Florida International University in Miami, FL, West Virginia University in Morgantown, WV, and Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA.

Dr. Alkadry has over 50 peer-reviewed articles, peer-reviewed book chapters, and journal symposia. He is also co-editor and co-author of three books: *Women and Public Service: Barriers, Challenges and Opportunities* (2013, 2014), *These Things Happen: Stories from the Public Sector* (2002), and *Scaling Up Microenterprise Services* (1998). Dr. Alkadry has authored in excess of fifty community and professional studies in areas of governance and public management.

Alkadry earned his B.A. from Carleton University, his M.P.P.P.A. from Concordia University, and his Ph.D. from Florida Atlantic University.



Moderator, Kelan Lyons, Criminal Justice Reporter, CT Mirror

Kelan Lyons is CT Mirror's [Report For America Corps Member](#), covering the intersection of mental health and criminal justice. Before joining CT Mirror, Kelan was a staff writer for City Weekly, an alt weekly in Salt Lake City, where he covered an array of topics including economic development, immigration and state and local politics. Prior to reporting in Utah, Kelan was a courts reporter for The Bryan-College Station Eagle, covering criminal and civil trials and hearings in the Brazos County Courthouse. Lyons won a first place feature writing award from the

2018 Texas Associated Press Managing Editors for his story on how a 35-year-old cold case still affects the community. He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Pittsburgh and a master's in journalism from Northwestern University. Kelan is originally from Philadelphia.



Presenter, Ken Barone, Project Manager, Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy (IMRP)

Since 2012, Ken has managed the Connecticut Racial Profiling Prohibition Project ([CTRP3](#)) on behalf of the [Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy](#) until recently, at Central Connecticut State University (CCSU). This project works to implement the state of Connecticut's Alvin W. Penn Racial Profiling law which requires law enforcement agencies to collect information on traffic stops and report that information to CCSU. Ken is responsible for coordinating data collection and submission from 107 law enforcement agencies and making the data available to the public. He has co-authored six statewide reports data for evidence of discrimination, and conducted investigations of significant racial and ethnic disparities identified in 28 municipal police departments throughout Connecticut. Ken is also a certified Department of Justice Community Oriented Policing Services "Fair and Impartial Police" trainer. He has trained over 800 law enforcement officers since 2014.



Vernon Riddick, Jr., Chief of Police, Town of West Hartford

Vernon Riddick was sworn in as West Hartford's 10th police chief in May 2018 after spending five years as chief of the Waterbury Police Department. Chief Riddick has also been a member of the Police Officer Standards and Training (POST) Council since 2018.

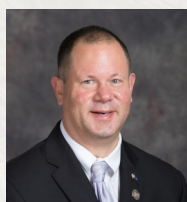
Riddick holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Tufts and a master's degree in public administration from Post University, according to the website. He has completed a number of training classes in management, investigation, SWAT command and FBI law enforcement.



Toni Walker , CT State Representative, 93rd District, New Haven

Representative Toni Walker is a seasoned social activist and advocate for youth, education, and human rights. As a state representative, Toni serves as House Chair of the Appropriations Committee and is also a member of the Judiciary Committee. For several years, Rep. Walker has committed herself to juvenile reform in Connecticut beginning with raising the age of juvenile jurisdiction. During the 2006 and 2007 legislative sessions,

Representative Walker introduced and championed legislation that would allow for 16 and 17 year-olds to be considered juveniles in the eyes of Connecticut courts. This is a monumental step in the direction of lowering recidivism rates and increasing opportunities for troubled youth to become active and upstanding citizens.



Craig Fishbein, CT State Representative, 90th District, Cheshire and Wallingford

Representative Craig Fishbein is in his third term in the state legislature where he represents the towns of Cheshire and Wallingford. He is also in his sixth term on the Wallingford Town Council. In the legislature, Representative Fishbein serves as the Ranking Member (the leader of the minority party caucus) on the Judiciary Committee, and he also serves on the Government Accountability & Elections (GAE) Committee, as well as the

Environment Committee, during this last session he also temporarily served as a fill-in member on the Public Safety & Security Committee. In addition to his elected positions, Representative Fishbein is a lawyer in private practice since 2002, where he has represented children in adult and criminal court, as well as the victims of crime. The balance of his practice is concentrated in civil rights litigation, family law and general civil litigation.



Michael P. Lawlor, Associate Professor, University of New Haven

Mike Lawlor is a nationally recognized expert on criminal justice reform which was a major focus of his 24 years as a member of the Connecticut House of Representatives and as former CT Governor Malloy's undersecretary for criminal justice policy and planning in the Office of Policy and Management. In 2020, Mayor Justin Elicker appointed Prof. Lawlor to be a member of the New Haven Board of Police Commissioners. Gov. Ned Lamont

appointed in him in 2021 to be a member of the statewide Police Officer Standards and Training (POST) Council. Prof. Lawlor, who has been a faculty member at the University since 1995, teaches courses in criminal law and criminal procedure. He received his J.D. from George Washington University, his M.A. in Soviet area studies from the University of London, and his B.A. in Slavic and Eastern European studies from the University of Connecticut. He also previously earned a Fulbright-Hays scholarship that enabled him to study in Hungary.