



# Town of Glastonbury

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**Richard J. Johnson**  
Town Manager

January 27, 2021

Senator Steve Cassano  
Legislative Office Building  
300 Capitol Ave, Room 2200  
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Representative Jill Barry  
Legislative Office Building  
300 Capitol Ave, Room 3103  
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Representative Jason Doucette  
Legislative Office Building  
300 Capitol Ave, Room 4000  
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Dear Senator Cassano and Representatives Barry and Doucette:

I am contacting you on behalf of the Glastonbury Town Council, Police Chief Marshall Porter, and my office. By unanimous vote at its meeting on Tuesday, January 26, 2021, the Town Council has endorsed this correspondence and the requests made herein.

Like many communities in Connecticut, Glastonbury has experienced a statistically significant increase in motor vehicle thefts and thefts from motor vehicles over the past several years. Last year alone, 75 vehicles were stolen, representing a staggering 295% increase from the prior year (2019). During this same time period, thefts *from* vehicles (items stolen from vehicles) also increased nearly 100%.

Statistical analysis, crime scene evidence, and reports from police officers, witnesses, and victims indicate that the majority of these crimes are being committed by juveniles. As serious as these thefts are, of greater concern are the associated crimes of a dangerous nature, which are being committed by the same juvenile groups. For example:

- Several months ago, a mother and her infant were shot in a hotel parking lot mid-day by a juvenile in a stolen vehicle.
- A few weeks ago, several juveniles were driving a stolen car while trying to steal additional vehicles in Glastonbury. When confronted by a homeowner, one of the juveniles threatened the man with a gun.
- Juveniles have engaged Glastonbury officers in pursuit and committed numerous residential burglaries to gain access to keys and vehicles.

It has been confirmed that the individuals committing these violent crimes in Glastonbury are doing so in neighboring towns as well. There appears to be a strong correlation between the increase in these crimes and 'raise the age' legislation, which have left police and prosecutors with little recourse for holding juveniles accountable for these crimes. In turn, residents and property owners are concerned for their public safety and quality of life.

Glastonbury Police proactively and successfully patrol and thoroughly investigate each crime, and have engaged in numerous outreach campaigns to educate and warn our citizens. Despite these ongoing efforts, this crime trend continues. Police Officers are frustrated that current juvenile crime laws preclude effective enforcement action. A successful solution must begin with state legislative support and a collaborative action plan.

On behalf of the Town of Glastonbury, I am requesting that State Legislators investigate this issue and develop solutions to address this statewide public safety issue. The Town of Glastonbury is willing to support and assist such efforts in any means possible. Thank you for your continuing hard work. Any assistance with this ongoing issue is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Johnson  
Town Manager

cc: Glastonbury Town Council  
Marshall S. Porter, Chief of Police