

Youth Car Theft in CT:

Trends and Steps to Improve Public Safety—Part 2

Tuesday, October 12, 2021, 12:00pm-1:00pm 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

Andrew Clark, Director, Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy

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

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

Moderator

Kelan Lyons, Journalist, CT Mirror

Panelists

Sue Hamilton, Director, CT Division of Public Defender Services

Mack Hawkins, Deputy Chief of Police, East Hartford

Iliana Pujols, Policy Director, CT Justice Alliance

Sharmese Walcott, State's Attorney, Judicial District of Hartford

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Sponsors:



**Andrew Clark, Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy (IMRP)**

Andrew Clark is the Director of the Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy (IMRP) at UConn Department of Public Policy. As Director, Mr. Clark works to facilitate efficient and effective solutions to critical issues facing Connecticut policymakers. The IMRP brings together a dedicated team of faculty, staff, and students with state and national experts to provide immediate and long-range policy solutions.

Prior to joining IMRP in 2005, Mr. Clark served as clerk of the Connecticut General Assembly's Appropriations Committee and aide to House Chair William Dyson for 5 years, where he assisted in the development and passage of significant criminal justice system reform legislation. He also served as clerk of the Transportation Committee for one year, and deputy clerk of the Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee for one session.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

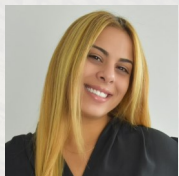
Alkadry earned his B.A. from Carleton University, his M.P.P.A. from Concordia University, and his Ph.D. from Florida Atlantic University.



Sue Hamilton, Director, CT Division of Public Defender Services

Attorney Hamilton currently serves as the Director of Delinquency Defense and Child Protection with the Division of Public Defender Services. In this role, she manages the 11 juvenile public defender offices across the state, which provide representation for children in both delinquency and child protection matters. In addition, she oversees contracts with approximately 250 Assigned Counsel responsible for representing parents and children in child protection cases, serving as Attorney for the Minor Child (AMC) and Guardian ad litem (GAL) in family court matters, and representing indigent contemnors and paternity respondents in the Family Support Magistrate court.

Prior to assuming her current position, Attorney Hamilton worked in private practice and as an Assistant Public Defender in the Hartford juvenile court representing children in delinquency and child protection cases. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and Justice Studies from the University of New Hampshire and both a Master of Social Work and Juris Doctor degree from the University of Connecticut.



Iliana Pujols, Policy Director, CT Justice Alliance

Iliana is currently the Policy Director of the Connecticut Justice Alliance. She began her work with the Alliance in late 2017 as one of the founding members of the Justice Advisors. Iliana is a 2017-2019 Youth First Initiative's Youth Leaders Network Alum, a 2019 CT Public Allies Alum, and a 2019-2021 Annie E Casey Foundation Youth Advisory Council Alum. She now serves as a member of the 2021 World Congress on Justice with Children Child and Youth Advisory Group. Iliana is a frequent panelist for national organizations, speaking to her expertise around youth and young adult partnership and advocacy based on her personal experiences and professional success.



Sharmese L. Walcott, State's Attorney, Judicial District of Hartford

Sharmese L. Walcott was appointed by the Criminal Justice Commission as State's Attorney for the Judicial District of Hartford on September 25, 2020. She is the chief law enforcement officer for the Judicial District of Hartford, which includes the capital city and 18 surrounding communities. State's Attorney Walcott joined the Division of Criminal Justice in 2007 in the Danbury Judicial District. She moved to the Hartford Judicial District in 2018 where she served until her appointment as Executive Assistant State's Attorney in 2020.

State's Attorney Walcott serves on the Legislative and Management Committees for DCJ, is the Chair of the Commission on the Standardization for the Collection of Evidence in Sexual Assault Investigations which includes membership on the Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners Committee and Sexual Assault Kit Initiative Committee, and is a member of the Trafficking In Persons Council.

State's Attorney Walcott earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Western Connecticut State University in Danbury and a Juris Doctor Degree from the George Washington University Law School in Washington D.C.

Mack S. Hawkins, Deputy Chief of Police, East Hartford, CT