



# New Public Safety Laws

Passing public safety laws and making sure they are enforced continues to be a top priority for me. This year the legislature passed, and the Governor signed, several very important bills that update our current public safety laws. My office is here to answer any questions you may have. I am always available at 860-240-8585 or at home 860-519-5685.

*Matt*

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE

# MATT RITTER

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## **THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S RESPONSE TO THE TRAGEDY IN SANDY HOOK**

In response to the tragedy that took place in Sandy Hook this past December, the legislature worked in a bipartisan manner to find solutions to try to prevent such a catastrophic event from happening again.

The major changes in the law expands the ban on assault weapons, bans the sale or purchase of large capacity magazines that can hold more than 10 rounds of ammunition, mandates the establishment of a deadly weapon offender registry, and bans the sale of armor-piercing bullets. In addition, the law expands the circumstances under which mental health history disqualifies a person for gun permits, and requires anyone buying ammunition to have an ammunition certificate.

This legislation also improves the security of our schools to help ensure that our children are safer in their schools. The new law creates a \$15 million grant program so that our existing schools can receive state assistance to upgrade their security infrastructure. Schools, local police departments and other first responders are also required to establish emergency plans to ensure that they are trained for emergency situations. *(SB 1160/PA 13-3)*



*Rep. Ritter touring the Upper Albany neighborhood with Hartford Police Chief Rovella and local leaders.*

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## **SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS**

The General Assembly addressed human trafficking and sexual exploitation by strengthening the law to increase the penalty from a misdemeanor to a class C felony for patronizing a prostitute under the age of 18 or who is being coerced or trafficked. The law also protects victims of human trafficking by permitting anyone convicted of prostitution to apply to the Superior Court to vacate a conviction because he or she was a victim of trafficking. *(HB 5666/PA 13-166)*

## **BLUE ALERTS**

The General Assembly passed legislation to establish a Blue Alert system that will alert the public when a police officer has been seriously injured or is missing, so the public can assist in apprehending the suspect or locating the officer. *(HB 6007/PA 13-24)*