



*Town of Wallingford, Connecticut*  
*Department of Police Services*

**JOHN J. VENTURA**  
CHIEF OF POLICE

135 NORTH MAIN STREET  
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February 23, 2022

Chief John Ventura #144  
Wallingford Police Department  
135 North Main St.  
Wallingford, CT 06492

**-For Immediate Release-  
Wallingford Police Officer Injured in Motor Vehicle Collision**

On 02-22-2022 at approximately 9:14 P.M. Wallingford Police Officer Justin Bussell was assisting a disabled tractor-trailer located in the rightmost eastbound travel lane on Route 68 in the area of Barnes Road. Officer Bussell was positioned behind the tractor-trailer in a fully-marked police cruiser with its emergency warning lights activated. While assisting the driver of the tractor-trailer, Officer Bussell's cruiser was struck in the rear by a Ford Expedition, also traveling eastbound on Route 68. The force of the collision sent Officer Bussell's cruiser off the roadway and into the woodline adjacent to the roadway. Officer Bussell was temporarily trapped inside the cruiser and had to be pulled out of the rear driver-side door. Officer Bussell was transported to Yale-New Haven Hospital for treatment of injuries sustained as a result of the collision. An occupant of the other involved vehicle was also treated for injuries sustained as a result of the collision.

The weather conditions at the time were windy with moderate rainfall. The Wallingford Police Department urges motorists to reduce their speeds, especially during times of inclement weather when conditions can reduce visibility and stopping distance.

For the safety of our officers and the community, we remind motorists of the Connecticut "Move Over" law found under Connecticut General Statute 14-283b that stipulates the following:

"Any operator of a motor vehicle on a highway when approaching one or more emergency vehicles that are stationary or traveling significantly below the posted speed limit and located on the shoulder, lane, or breakdown lane of such highway shall:

- (1) immediately reduce speed to a reasonable level below the posted speed limit, and
- (2) if traveling in the lane adjacent to the shoulder, lane or breakdown lane containing such emergency vehicle, move such motor vehicle over one lane, unless such movement would be unreasonable or unsafe".



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