



May 12, 2022

Dear Members of the Public Safety Conference Committee:

Metro Cities, representing the shared interests of cities in the metropolitan region, appreciates the opportunity to comment on the omnibus bills being considered by this conference committee.

**Funding for Local Law Enforcement** – Metro Cities supports the funding in Article 1 of both bills that provide funding for municipal law enforcement agencies and officers. Specifically, Metro Cities supports the \$15 million for Emergency Community Safety grants, \$15 million for Local Community Policing grants, and \$15 million for Local Investigation grants found in Article 1, Sec. 2 of the House bill. These grant opportunities will allow law enforcement officials at the local level find creative, community-specific solutions to today’s public safety challenges.

**Retention and Recruitment** – Metro Cities supports the funding in both bills focused on bolstering peace officer retention and recruitment efforts across the state. Law enforcement agencies of all sizes are struggling hire and retain peace officers. Metro Cities supports the funding in Article 1, Sec. 8 of the Senate bill that allocates funding for various recruitment efforts, officer bonus programs, and agency reimbursement grants.

**Body Cameras** – Metro Cities supports funding for public safety equipment and appreciates funding for body cameras and body camera data storage. Metro Cities supports the \$9 million for body camera grants in Article 1, Sec. 2 of the House bill, but is concerned that the associated policy mandates found in Article 2, Sec. 2 and Article 3, Sec. 7 do not allow for adequate local control and resident input. Metro Cities also supports the funding in Article 1, Sec. 2 of the House language that allocates \$6 million for the development of a statewide data storage program for law enforcement agencies to be able to afford the costs associated with retaining body camera data. Metro Cities recognizes that Article 1, Sec. 16 of the Senate language prioritizes the \$5 million for portable recording system grants for agencies outside of the metropolitan region, but we encourage the conference committee to continue working toward the shared goal of equipping every peace officer in the state with a body camera.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Michael Lund'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Mike Lund  
Government Relations Specialist