



May 1, 2023

Chair Kelly Moller

Chair Ron Latz

Members of the Omnibus Public Safety and Judiciary Conference Committee

**RE: Written testimony on SF 2909 (Representative Kelly Moller/Senator Ron Latz)—
Omnibus public safety and judiciary**

Dear Chairs Moller and Latz and Members of the Omnibus Public Safety and Judiciary Conference Committee,

On behalf of the League of Minnesota Cities' 838 member cities, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on the House and Senate versions of SF 2909, the omnibus judiciary and public safety finance and bill.

While the League is tracking dozens of provisions of importance to cities in this legislation, I am writing to highlight support for the following provisions:

- **Same and similar provisions**
 - Youth intervention programs: The House provides \$7.5 million per year for youth intervention programs (lines 16.14-16.17) and the Senate provides \$5 million per year for this purpose (lines 15.32-16.3).
 - First responder mental health curriculum: The House provides \$25,000 for first responder health curriculum grants (lines 18.23-19.3 and 40.6-40.24) and the Senate provides \$75,000 for this purpose (lines 18.15-19.12). The League supports the funding level provided in the Senate version of SF 2909.
 - Law enforcement recruitment and retention provisions: Both bills contain various law enforcement recruitment and retention provisions and funding. These provisions are critical to improving public safety in cities across the state.

- **House-only provisions**
 - Community co-responder grants: The House provides \$3 million per year and base funding of \$4.5 million per year beginning in 2026 for community co-responder grants (lines 16.18-17.10).
 - Mental health services for first responders grant program: The House provides \$1 million each year for grants for first responder mental health services (lines 21.30-21.34 and 39.5-40.5).

- **Senate-only provisions**

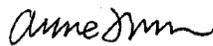
- Minnesota Youth Justice Office: The Senate provides \$5 million per year to establish the Minnesota Youth Justice Office (lines 15.5-15.16).
- Body camera grants: The Senate provides \$4.5 million in 2024 and \$1.5 million in 2025 for grants to law enforcement agencies for body worn cameras (lines 22.21-23.3).
- First Responder Wellness Office: The Senate provides \$600,000 per year to the Department of Public Safety to establish a First Responder Wellness Office (lines 23.4-23.8).

Opposition to expansion of “killed in the line of duty” definition

The League opposes the provision in the Senate version of SF 2909 that expands the public safety “killed in the line of duty” definition retroactively to include disabling cancers linked to carcinogens (lines 52.11-52.14 and 53.30). As drafted, this provision pertains to all public safety officers, including law enforcement, regardless of job-related exposure to carcinogens. It provides a benefit to employees without consideration of non-job-related risks (tobacco use, outside occupational exposure, genetic predisposition, etc.). Additionally, this provision would have a significant fiscal impact on another bill advancing through the legislature, HF 1234/SF 1959, a bill containing policy and funding provisions related to duty disability benefits for police officers and firefighters.

The League looks forward to working with you to advance a conference committee report.

Sincerely,



Anne Finn
Intergovernmental Relations Director