



April 4, 2022

Dear Chair Mariani and Members of the House Public Safety Committee:

Metro Cities, representing the shared interests of cities across the metropolitan area, appreciates the opportunity to comment on HF 4608 – Mariani, as amended by the DE2 amendment. Metro Cities supports several key provisions:

Body Cameras – Metro Cities’ polices support funding for public safety equipment such as body cameras. Metro Cities appreciates the \$9 million for grants to local law enforcement agencies to pay for portable recording systems and costs associated with the maintenance of the equipment and its data.

Retention and Recruitment – Local law enforcement agencies in the metropolitan region are experiencing unprecedented challenges in retaining and recruiting peace officers. 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 included in this bill. In addition to funding innovative and creative public safety initiatives, these grant opportunities will provide local agencies funding to bolster current and future efforts in officer/investigator recruitment and retention.

Arbitration Reform – While not included in the DE amendment, Metro Cities encourages committee members to consider statutory arbitration reforms to allow for the discipline, including removal, of law enforcement officers who have been found to have violated local law enforcement agency policies.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter. We look forward to working with you as the public safety omnibus bill advances this session. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Lund". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mike" and last name "Lund" clearly distinguishable.

Mike Lund
Government Relations Specialist
Metro Cities