



May 1, 2023

Dear Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Conference Committee:

Metro Cities, representing the collective interests of cities in the metropolitan area, appreciates the opportunity to comment on the omnibus bills that will be considered by this conference committee.

Metro Cities supports flexible state funding for public safety innovation at the local level. Metro Cities supports Art. 2 § 15 of the House bill that appropriates \$100 million for the Community Crime and Violence Prevention Account. Metro Cities supports the use of this account to award grants to cities and those working collaboratively with local governments for community crime and violence prevention programs including but not limited to juvenile diversion programs.

Metro Cities supports several other key funding provisions found in these bills including:

- \$9.9 million in the Senate bill (Art. 1 § 11) and \$1 million each year in the House bill (Art. 2 § 3) for grants to local governments for to purchase or upgrade equipment that can be used as part of the Statewide Public Safety Radio Communication System.
- \$7.5 million each year in the House bill (Art. 2 § 3) and \$5 million each year in the Senate bill (Art. 1 § 11) for youth intervention programs under Minnesota Statutes, Section 299A.73.
- \$6 million in the Senate bill (Art. 1 § 11) for body camera grants.
- \$7 million in both bills to support Public Safety Answering Points' transition to Next Generation 911.
- Funding in both bills for grants to municipalities and local law enforcement agencies to build or maintain mental health co-responder models.

Metro Cities supports Art. 10 § 11 in the House bill that requires that the Department of Public Safety's annual uniform crime report include data on carjacking, as its own distinct category.

Cities of all sizes across the metropolitan region are experiencing retention and recruitment challenges. Metro Cities supports funding in both bills for reimbursements for local officer training, retention bonuses, and other costs, to address these challenges at the local level.

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, with the first name "Michael" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Lund".

Mike Lund
Government Relations Specialist
Metro Cities