



April 11, 2023

Dear Chair Marty and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

Metro Cities, representing the collective interests of cities in the metropolitan area, appreciates the opportunity to comment on SF 2909 (Latz).

Metro Cities supports flexible state funding for public safety innovation at the local level. Metro Cities supports Article 1, Section 23, which appropriates up to \$2.8 million each year for community violence prevention and intervention programs. Metro Cities supports the use of this account to award grants to cities and organizations working collaboratively with local governments for community crime and violence prevention programs including but not limited to juvenile diversion programs. Metro Cities further supports Article 1, Section 25, which appropriates up to \$2.8 million each year for grants to local law enforcement agencies or local governments to improve responses to situations involving individuals experiencing a mental health crisis.

Metro Cities supports several other key funding provisions found in Article 1 of SF 2909:

- \$1 million each year for grants to local governments that enhance their ability to deliver 911 calls between entry points and first responders.
- \$9.9 million for grants to local governments to purchase or upgrade equipment that can be used as part of the Statewide Public Safety Radio Communication System.
- Over \$20 million to MnDOT for the cost of operating the statewide radio system backbone.
- \$7 million in FY 2024 support Public Safety Answering Points' transition to Next Generation 911.
- \$5 million each year for youth intervention programs under Minnesota Statutes, Section 299A.73.
- \$6 million for grants to local governments to purchase and maintain portable recording devices.
- \$400,000 each year for reimbursements to state and local law enforcement agencies that operate pathway to policing programs and \$2.9 million each year for reimbursements to local governments for peace officer training costs.

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".

Mike Lund
Government Relations Specialist
Metro Cities