



To: Senate Majority Leader Winnie Brinks
 Speaker of the House Joe Tate
 Senator Stephanie Chang, Chair of the Senate Civil Rights, Judiciary, and Public Safety Committee
 Representative Kara Hope, Chair of the House Criminal Justice Committee

CC: Governor Gretchen Whitmer
 Lieutenant Governor Garlin Gilchrist
 Members of the Michigan Senate
 Member of the Michigan House of Representatives

Subject: Urgent Action on Police Improvement & Community Relations Bill Package

Four years ago, in the wake of the deaths of Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, and too many others, there was a growing bipartisan consensus on commonsense police reform and accountability measures. These proposals would reduce the risk of future incidents of unarmed people being seriously injured or killed by police, reduce bias-based policing, and improve community trust of law enforcement.

We are still waiting for meaningful legislative action to address these concerns.

In the 2021-2022 legislative session, lawmakers on both sides of the aisle put forward a package of bills for police accountability. During this legislative session, several lawmakers and others have worked to further refine these bipartisan bills through extensive stakeholder outreach to law enforcement, community organizations, legal organizations, prosecutors, academics, faith leaders, and others. These bills would:

- [Limit the use of no-knock warrants](#) and provide clear guidelines for authorization and execution of such warrants.
- Establish a “[duty to intervene](#)” for law enforcement officers when they see a colleague use excessive force.

- Require law enforcement agencies to adopt [use of force policies](#) and that such policies cover the use of physical force, issuing a verbal warning, not using chokeholds, and the use of deadly force.
- Prohibit officers from knowingly and intentionally removing, altering, concealing, destroying, or otherwise [tampering with body cam footage](#) or deactivating a body camera.
- Implement [ongoing training for officers](#) regarding de-escalation tactics, implicit bias, and crisis response techniques.
- Allow MCOLES to [revoke the licenses of officers found to have used excessive force](#) resulting in death or serious injury while on duty and strengthening background check requirements.
- Improve tracking of [separation of service records](#) when law enforcement officers leave a department.
- Amend current law to exclude [false testimony](#) from protections for compulsory statements by police officers during the course of an internal investigation of wrongdoing.
- [Protect the anonymity](#) of some complaints about misconduct against a law enforcement officer.

The current bills are thoughtful, well researched, [supported by many law enforcement leaders](#), several county sheriffs, and have broad public support. We know that having strong police use of force policies decreases not only injuries and deaths of community members, but law enforcement officers as well.

There is strong public support for this commonsense police improvement and community relations bill package. An August 2023 YouGov poll of 851 Michigan voters found that:

- 91% of respondents support establishing a “duty to intervene” when one officer observes a colleague using excessive force;
- 89% of respondents support requiring de-escalation training for law enforcement personnel;
- 66% of respondents support banning chokeholds;
- 64% of respondents support limiting the use of no-knock warrants except for extreme circumstances;
- 78% of respondents believe that passing these policies would *improve* their community's relationship with police or have no effect.

In these final days of this legislative session we implore you not to let this effort go to waste. **Please fast-track introduction, hearing, and votes on these vital public safety bills.**

Do not be mistaken: the protests of 2020 may have waned, but the concerns about police accountability remain. Consider these recent headlines over just the past 3 months:

- [Two Sterling Heights police officers charged with misconduct and felonious assault](#), Macomb Daily News, 10/8/2024
- [Black motorist sues Michigan State Police over racial profiling incident](#), Rolling Out,

- 10/5/2024
- [Michigan State Police troopers accused of racial profiling, mocking Black motorist in false DUI arrest](#), Metro Times, 9/30/2024
- [AAPD deactivated bodycams while patrolling UMich Gaza solidarity encampment sweep. Daily investigation finds](#), Michigan Daily, 9/25/2024
- [Ticket quotas are illegal in Michigan; Lincoln Park officer blows whistle on department rule](#), WXYZ ABC 7 Detroit, 9/19/2024
- [He's not allowed to be a police officer. Why is he a Wayne County Sheriff's deputy?](#), WXYZ ABC 7 Detroit, 9/17/2024
- [Ex-Warren cop Matthew Rodriguez sentenced in videotaped assault of prisoner](#), Detroit News, 9/10/2024
- [Former Michigan Police Officer Sentenced for Civil Rights Violation for Violently Assaulting Arrestee](#), U.S. Attorney's Office, Eastern District of Michigan, 9/10/2024
- [A Detroit detective terrorized young men into making false confessions. Some are still behind bars.](#), Metro Times, 7/24/2024
- [Cop fired for 'outrageous' sexting with suspect got second chance in Dundee](#), TV 20 Detroit WMYD, 8/15/2024

Law enforcement officers are entrusted with the power over other people's lives and liberty. This tremendous power comes with the need for strong, clear, and transparent standards of professional conduct and accountability.

We implore you: follow through on the promises of recent years, show the public you take police improvement and community relations seriously *before* another violent incident occurs, and pass commonsense bipartisan police accountability legislation this season.

Endorsed by:

ACLU of Michigan
 Everytown for Gun Safety
 Michigan Collaborative to End Mass Incarceration
 Michigan League for Public Policy
 Michigan Roundtable for Just Communities
 NAACP Michigan State Conference
 Michigan Center for Youth Justice
 National Association of Social Workers - Michigan Chapter
 Safe and Just Michigan
 Agape Social Services
 Avalon Housing
 Citizens for Prison Reform
 Coalition for Police Transparency and Accountability (CPTA)
 The Delta Project
 Detroit Disability Power

Dignity4Detroit
 Friends of Restorative Justice
 Emergent Justice
 EndSaR-MI (Michigan Advocates to End Seclusion and Restraint)
 Fighting The Good Fight
 Golden Girls Mentoring
 LEAF Harm Reduction
 LINC UP Nonprofit Housing Corporation
 Michigan Collaborative to End Mass Incarceration
 Michigan Disability Rights Coalition
 National Lifers of America, Inc.
 Organization of Exonerees
 Public Health Awakened-Michigan Chapter
 Voting Access For All Coalition