



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

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December 28, 2011

The Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr.
Attorney General of the United States
United States Department of Justice
900 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Holder:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPPO), representing 241,000 rank-and-file police officers including the Detroit Police Officers Association, I am writing this letter to respectfully request an immediate review of Michigan's Emergency Manager Law.

Although there has been an Emergency Manager Law in existence for some time, the recent action of state lawmakers to enact legislation, Public Act 4 results in less autonomy for law enforcement and greater authority for Emergency Managers. The new law calls for the appointment of financial managers to oversee the governance of cities such as Detroit. Such governance adversely affects collective bargaining agreements and can pose a detrimental impact on law enforcement officers.

NAPPO acknowledges the poor economic conditions that plague many cities across the nation. While the appointment of Emergency Managers may be beneficial in some areas, sacrificing the welfare of first responders should not be an option.

Ultimately, it is public safety and security that is jeopardized by legislation that calls for the micro-management of law enforcement and fosters poor working conditions for police. It would be beneficial to first responders if the Justice Department would review and if necessary intervene with the authority given to Michigan's Emergency Managers. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, or NAPPO's Director of Government Affairs, Rachel Hedge, at (703) 549-0775.

Sincerely,

William J. Johnson
Executive Director

- CC: The Honorable Rick Snyder, Governor of Michigan
The Honorable John Conyers, Ranking Member, House Judiciary Committee
Andy Dillon, Michigan State Treasurer
Dave Bing, Mayor of Detroit
Joe Duncan, President-Elect, Detroit Police Officers Association