



Michigan Professional **FIRE FIGHTERS UNION**

Mark Docherty
President

1651 Kingsway Ct., Ste. E, Trenton, MI 48183
(734) 675-0206 • fax (734) 675-6083

Terrence H. Chesney
Secretary-Treasurer

www.mpffu.org
April 7, 2011

James Tignanelli
President, POAM
27056 Joy Rd,
Redford, MI

President Tignanelli,

I am contacting you in reference to the letter recently issued by your organization supporting the concept of a Public Safety Department in the City of Harper Woods. I wanted to express our organization's complete disagreement with your state association's support of a concept that ONLY serves to bolster your ranks at the expense of our members.

This is a very difficult time for ALL of us and many self-preservation methods could be deployed from our organization as well. Even though some of our members would like to see that, we have NEVER encouraged it. We have always encouraged our members to stand UNITED with the police officers in their community to promote proper prioritization of resources within that community. If we stand united we are stronger, but divided we fall. This is the most basic concept of unions and the only principal that will allow both our organizations to survive. If both our organizations begin attacking each other it will be disastrous for both groups in the end.

We can debate the negatives of combining police and fire services for hours, but in the end we both know that it does not save any money. And the majority of the negatives are on our side of course.

The fact that it doesn't save money is pretty easy to see in Harper Woods, as the plan was to keep all the same employees, train them to each other's jobs, equip them for both jobs and give them all a 30% raise over 5 years. You state in your letter, that if PSO doesn't pass, it will cost the City \$700,000. Now, I know I'm not a CPA, but it seems pretty clear to me that it will not. Please explain to me how the City's plan saves ANY money!!!

You also cite that the resident's insurance rates will increase if this doesn't pass. Again, this is not true. In fact their insurance rates will increase if it passes, due to the ISO rating change that will occur if a PSO model is put in place.

Next you state that the Grosse Pointes have enjoyed significant savings by having a PSO department. Prove it!! The Grosse Pointe's have never been an example of cost efficiencies nor has that been something they have strived for. If they had, you and I both know it would be far more efficient to have one police department covering all of the Grosse Pointes. People don't move to any of the Pointes to save money.

You also state that the City does not intend on privatizing the Ambulance Service. Again a complete misrepresentation! It is their intent and has been stated repeatedly and will happen if this is passed.

I find your willingness to produce such a document which perpetuates such gross untruths and misleading statements, to be completely unprofessional and does a great deal to discredit your organization and the entire profession. I ask that you rescind the letter immediately and allow PSO to remain a local issue to be determined by the local bargaining groups and the citizens.

I wish to meet with your organization at your earliest convenience to discuss this incredibly important issue before the destruction of our professional and fraternal relationships progresses. We have far too many important battles in Lansing to fight off together! We must stand united as Police and Fire Unions to protect our very rights to do the jobs we both want to do and to do them safely.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Docherty". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping "M" and "D".

Mark Docherty
President
Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union
Cell: (586) 243-9829
Email: markdocherty@comcast.net



POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN

27056 Joy Road • Redford, Michigan 48239-1949 • 313 937-9000 • FAX 313 937-9165

To All Citizens of Harper Woods:

First of all, thank you for everything you do to assist your police officers in making Harper Woods a great place to live, work and raise our families. But we need your help how more than ever before. It won't cost you a single penny.

In 2008, your police officers became cross-trained as firefighters, attempting to save the City hundreds of thousands of dollars, increase the number of police officers on the street and firefighters responding to emergency calls. **Firefighters sued the City, refusing to cross-train, a move that will cost citizens up to \$700,000 a year.**

Governor Snyder has now stated publicly that future revenue sharing will depend on local communities' efforts to consolidate services. Let's be pro-active and

VOTE YES FOR PUBLIC SAFETY ON MAY 3RD

By amending the City Charter, we will join other public safety departments and our direct mutual aid partners (all Grosse Pointes) that have enjoyed significant savings and **more** public safety officers to fight crime and fire. And yes, the City will still continue to provide quality ambulance service.

If the ballot proposal fails, we will be short-changing our families and senior citizens in emergency situations when response time can save lives. It will **gut police and fire departments**, jeopardize essential services and send the wrong message to criminals and predators. Insurance rates will increase as our home values and quality of life decrease.

Please tell your family, friends and neighbors that a Harper Woods Public Safety Department will save lives and money. We encourage all citizens to amend our City Charter by voting

YES FOR IMPROVED PUBLIC SAFETY

Michael R. Lynch
President, Harper Woods
Public Safety Officers
Association

James A. Tignanelli
President, Police Officers
Association of Michigan