

COUNTY OF OAKLAND
OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

MICHAEL J. BOUCHARD



April 4, 2017

The Honorable Laura Cox
Chair, House Appropriations Committee
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Representative Cox:

I write today to express my disappointment in a budget line item which has been included in the House version of the State Police budget for Fiscal Year 2018. This budget line item will give Michigan International Speedway (MIS) \$800,000 to pay for police to patrol and provide security for events at this venue.

While there are no issues with the Michigan State Police, Sheriff's Offices, or local police departments providing security to this venue, it should not be a subsidy paid by the state of Michigan for a private for profit venue. In Oakland County, the Sheriff's Office provides security and traffic control for the Meadowbrook Music Theatre, the DTE Music Theatre, the Renaissance Festival among others. These venues reimburse the Sheriff's Office at 100% of the cost for Deputies to provide this service. The Palace of Auburn Hills provides 100% reimbursement for their events to the Auburn Hills Police Department. The attendance at these events far outstrips MIS attendance. Further, even non-profit events such as the Woodward Dream Cruise which brings a million people to Oakland County, receives no state funding for any of the agencies that provide their services.

Currently, MIS reimburses the local Sheriff's Offices and police departments for providing security and police services inside of the venue. It should not be the state taxpayer's burden to pay for security and traffic control on the outside of the venue for a profit making venture. I believe the State Police are invaluable at this event but MIS should be reimbursing the State for their services, just as they do for the Deputies and officers helping to protect visitors inside of the venue.

This \$800,000 budget line item should be eliminated and reallocated to meet so many other public law enforcement needs across the state.

If you should have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Sheriff Michael J. Bouchard
Oakland County Sheriff
President Emeritus, Major County Sheriffs of America
National Sheriff of the Year 2016

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