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August 15, 2017

OH Senator Larry Obhof
OH State Representative Steve Hambley

Dear Senator Obhof and Representative Hambley,

Please accept this letter on behalf of the City of Medina asking for your support for House Bill 255. Having been in law enforcement in Medina County since 1981, the safety of our respective constituents is dependent on adequate law enforcement resources. Traffic enforcement is a primary means of interacting with the public and keeping our roadways safe. It also permits the identification of drivers who may be driving under suspension, driving without licenses, driving while under the influence of drugs and or alcohol, as well as drivers who have warrants issued for more serious charges. It is my hope and prayer that HB 255 may again permit the Township law enforcement agencies in Medina County to have traffic enforcement authority on interstate highways in our county for our collective safety.

We are living in more dangerous times, dealing with serious opiate addiction problems, and many times the city, county, and OSP staff are not adequate to address the needs in the county. Having our neighboring township officers available to assist us in stopping traffic violators, enforcing traffic code violations out of accidents, and removing criminals from our streets makes our county safer for all who live, work or visit here. As a result, I respectfully ask for your help and support in permitting the enforcement of traffic violations by our township police on interstate highways within our county, as well as permitting same in the State of Ohio for the safety of all. Continuing to do so is a basic premise of the community policing model that has worked very well in our county and country for the past two decades.

Thank you for your anticipated consideration of this request. Please contact me if I may answer any questions or if you require further information regarding this request.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dennis Hanwell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dennis Hanwell
Mayor/Safety Director
City of Medina, OH
330-722-9020

Preserving the Past. Forging the Future