



MAYOR MARIE GALLO

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

KATIE IACONIS, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES

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November 26, 2023

Representative Brennan,

I am the Director of Finance and Human Resources for the City of Parma Heights in Cuyahoga County, Ohio. I am writing to share my concerns, and ultimately my opposition, to House Bill 296. I would like to preface by saying that I have the utmost respect and admiration for both our Police and Fire Department's in the City of Parma Heights. With that said, the City of Parma Heights is a predominantly 'bedroom' community with roughly 20,000 residents. It is important to point out that as a 'bedroom' community, our city has limited revenue streams; we rely primarily on property tax, income tax and our already reduced local government funding. The city has wonderful businesses, but little area for economic development or expansion that would bolster our commercial tax base.

Our annual budget is generally in the \$20 million dollar range, with over 60% dedicated to funding our Public Safety Services. The employer's pension match of 19.5% for the Police Department is currently in the \$700,000.00 range annually. An increase to a 24% match will ultimately increase the City's annual match to over \$860,000.00. This is a significant amount of money for a city of our size to absorb. Without a new revenue source, or an increase to an existing source, we would be faced with having to make reductions in services in order to sustain the increase long term. Should you or the Pensions Committee want more input from the local level on the true impact of House Bill 296 I can be reached by phone or email anytime. Thank you for taking the time to review my concerns

Sincerely,

Katie Iaconis

Director of Finance and Human Resources