

# The City of Lorain, Ohio

## Department of Law

Patrick D. Riley

Law Director



June 24, 2024

The Ohio General Assembly  
ATTN: Honorable Members of the Ohio General Assembly  
Ohio Statehouse 1 Capitol Square  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-4275

### CIVIL DIVISION

Joseph T. LaVeck  
Chief Asst. Law Director  
& Police Legal Advisor

Donald M. Zaleski  
Asst. Law Director

Kenneth R. Resar  
Asst. Law Director

Joseph H. Pritchard  
Asst. Law Director &  
Contract Admin.

RE: Sub. H. B. 241

Dear Honorable Members of the Ohio General Assembly:

I would like to thank Chair Johnson, Vice Chair Wilson, and Ranking Member Craig for allowing me to speak in favor of HB 241 today. Please find this correspondence as my humble request for your consideration and support of HB 241. Currently, I am the Chief Assistant Law Director & Police Legal Advisor for the City of Lorain and the Prosecutor for the Village of Wellington. I have worked extensively with law enforcement agencies across Lorain County in urban, suburban, and rural communities over the past decade.

It is no secret that there is a nationwide recruiting crisis in law enforcement. Ohio law enforcement agencies are certainly no exception. At the same time, the demand and need for high quality law enforcement to best serve our communities has never been higher. HB 241 is integral in empowering Ohio's law enforcement agencies to create recruitment pipelines, which will provide more extensive training to prospective peace officers, improve the quality of our law enforcement officers upon hire, create a clear pathway for good jobs in law enforcement for local kids, and strengthen the bonds between local law enforcement agencies and community educational institutions.

Currently, the law does not clearly contemplate the ability of statutory cities to engage in filling vacancies in their police departments via lateral transfers, though charter cities are free to do so. Lateral transfers present an important recruitment tool by way of ensuring law enforcement agencies can hire candidates that meet the needs of that specific agency. HB 241 will also introduce fairness between statutory and charter cities by way of empowering statutory cities to fill vacancies via lateral transfers.

### CRIMINAL DIVISION

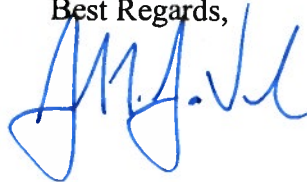
Mallory J. Santiago  
Chief Asst. Prosecutor

Rocky R. Radeff  
Asst. Prosecutor

Further, empowering statutory cities to fill vacancies via lateral transfers opens up additional employment opportunities for Ohio's law enforcement officers.

For these reasons, I humbly request your consideration and support of HB 241.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. LaVeck', is written over the typed name below.

Joseph T. LaVeck