

# The City of Lorain, Ohio

## Department of Law

Patrick D. Riley

Law Director



October 3, 2023

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

### CIVIL DIVISION

Donald M. Zaleski  
Asst. Law Director

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

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Asst. Law Director &  
Contract Admin.

RE: Sub. H. B. 241

Dear Honorable Members of the Ohio General Assembly,

Please find this correspondence as my humble request for your consideration and support of Sub. H. B. 241. I am the 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. Sub. H. B. 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. Sub. H. B. 241 will also introduce fairness between statutory and charter cities by way of empowering statutory cities to fill vacancies via lateral transfers. Further, empowering statutory cities to fill vacancies via lateral

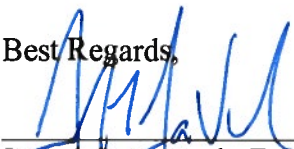
### CRIMINAL DIVISION

Mallory J. Santiago  
Prosecutor

Rocky R. Radeff  
Prosecutor

transfers opens up additional employment opportunities for Ohio's law enforcement officers.

For these reasons, I humbly request your consideration and support of Sub. H. B. 241.

Best Regards,  
  
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Joseph T. LaVeck, Esq