



Board of Police Commissioners

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News Release

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The Detroit Board of Police Commissioners approves a resolution opposing state proposals that would turn Michigan into a “danger zone” for law enforcement and public safety

Citing the risk of increased gun-related violence and crime against law enforcement and residents, the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners passed a resolution opposing House Bills 4416-4419 and encouraging the full Michigan Senate and the Governor to reject the measures.

“These bills are extremely detrimental to public safety,” said Chair Willie E. Bell of District 4. “By eliminating permits, training and other common sense measures, these bills shred all the requirements of responsible gun ownership. They make law enforcement a bigger target not only for criminals but also for armed, untrained masses. These bills simply create a huge danger zone for everyone.”

The House-approved bills eliminate almost all restrictions to carry dangerous weapons in Michigan. The set of bills do not require direct educational or training requirements for

individuals purchasing guns and repeals much of the prison time for violators. Most importantly to the police and law enforcement community, the bills are likely to increase the number of guns on the streets while eliminating the ability for law enforcement officers to safely determine whether someone is armed, since even those who maintain a CPL (concealed pistol license) would no longer need to identify themselves to police.

The Board of Police Commissioners joins a growing number of law enforcement governing and oversight bodies, police forces, and public safety advocates opposing the House-approved bills and their proposed radical changes to state law.



Created by City Charter in 1974, the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners has supervisory authority and oversight over the Police Department. Under the 2012 Charter, the Board is comprised of 11 civilian members; Detroiters elect seven members by district (the seat for District 7 is vacant); the mayor appoints four at-large members.

The current members are Willie E. Bell, Elizabeth Brooks, Willie E. Burton, Lisa Carter, Reginald Crawford, Eva Garza Dewaelsche, Conrad L. Mallet Jr., Derrick Sanders, Richard Shelby and Bishop Edgar L. Vann.

The Detroit Board of Police Commissioners meets weekly on Thursday at 3 p.m. at Detroit Public Safety Headquarters, 1301 Third Avenue, except for the second Thursday of the month when it holds community meetings at 6:30 p.m.

For the Board meeting schedule, video, minutes and other information, visit the website at detroitmi.gov/boards/boardofpolicecommissioners.