

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF ATTORNEY GENERAL



P.O. Box 30212  
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909

DANA NESSEL  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

June 26, 2023

Bryan Ferguson, Chairman  
Detroit Board of Police Commissioners  
1301 Third Street, Suite 767  
Detroit, MI 48226

Re: Board of Police Commissioners (BOPC) Attorney Representation

Dear Chairman Ferguson:

I am writing in response to your May 25, 2023, letter in which you call upon the Attorney General to “support and take action” on “[p]rohibit[ing] Corporation Counsel from denying BOPC approval to post for and appoint the budgeted Attorney to the Board and Legal Assistant.”

In essence, the dispute you describe is one between city officials that involves the interpretation and application of the Detroit City Charter. While the Attorney General does indeed support the BOPC being provided all the resources to which it is entitled under the Detroit City Charter, the Attorney General lacks the authority to offer a binding interpretation of the charter or to directly compel or prohibit any action by Corporation Counsel or other city officials. Therefore, after considerable review and discussion of the information you have provided, unfortunately, we are unable to provide you with the assistance you seek.

I regret that we cannot be of further service in this matter.

Sincerely,

*Fadwa Hammoud*

Fadwa Hammoud  
Chief Deputy