



CITY OF HAZEL PARK

MUNICIPAL OFFICES

111 East Nine Mile Road • Hazel Park, Michigan 48030

"Gateway to Oakland County"

March 8, 2021

To: Rep. Sarah Lightner, Chair, and members of the House Appropriations Sub-Committee on Judiciary:

The City of Hazel Park ("City") is aware of an upcoming discussion on trial court funding. The City supported House Bill 5488 to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure and to extend the ability of trial courts to impose certain reasonable costs on defendants as incurred by trial courts and as set forth by statute which included for assessment of minimum state costs. As the Committee acknowledged, failure to extend the sunset provision would have had a catastrophic impact on local courts and on the economy at every level, particularly local governments. As you know, many are already facing a funding crisis as a result of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. This is not the end of the grave concerns for many communities.

In supporting the extension of the sunset provision, the City recognized that this was not the final solution to the funding crisis that some courts face, particularly in times of economic crisis. The City has followed the actions of the Trial Court Funding Commission ("TCFC"). The City is also aware of the report and recommendations released in the September 6, 2019 Trial Court Funding Commission Final Report. The City, as do other similarly situated municipalities, has important concerns regarding the effective implementation of the TCFC's recommendations as currently written and actual achievement of the stated goals of the TCFC. In creating a state unilateral funding mandate, there are profound Constitutional concerns as well as conflicts of interest implications. The City requests an opportunity to discuss these concerns, and others, and to work together to achieve solutions.

The City believes it is imperative to maintain separation of powers and the autonomy of local courts and local government consistent with home rule and Constitutional mandates. The City requests the opportunity to participate in any committee or working group to represent the concerns of local governments and district courts before furtherance of or additional language is added to this legislation. The City supports representation of all levels of government to come together for long-term solutions that will take into account home rule local autonomy and considerations of the unique circumstances of jurisdictions.

We look forward to hearing from you soon. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Edward Klobucher
City Manager

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| Police Dept. 248-542-6161 | City Clerk 248-546-4064 | City Council 248-546-4060 | Assessor 248-546-4070 |
| Fire Dept. 248-542-6000 | District Court 248-547-3034 | Treasurer 248-546-4062 | Library 248-542-0940 |
| City Attorney 248-546-3379 | Dept. of Public Works ... 248-542-0340 | Finance Dept. 248-546-4066 | Code Enforcement 248-546-4074 |
| Water Dept. 248-546-4076 | Building Dept. 248-546-4075 | Planning/Econ. Dev. 248-546-4072 | Viking Ice Arena 248-546-5700 |
| | City Manager 248-546-4060 | Recreation Dept. 248-547-5535 | |

