

MIRS Capitol Capsule, Wednesday, May 22, 2008

Mayors Decry Revenue Sharing Increase Loss

Several mayors expressed their frustration today at the Senate's refusal to support the Governor's proposed four percent revenue sharing increase, citing that this revenue is essential in funding core social services like the police and fire department (See "[Senate Approps Lops Off Revenue Sharing Hike](#)," 5/21/08).

Kentwood Mayor Richard **ROOT** said that his city has not increased the size of its fire department for the past few years, even though the city's population has increased.

No legislators attended the mayors' Capitol rally, but the mayors present were not surprised.

"I wouldn't say they're running for cover," quipped Root, one of the speakers at the "Don't Break the Promise Again" rally held today by the Michigan Association of Mayors (MAM).

Howell Mayor Geraldine **MOEN** added that she was "not surprised" because these events are generally held for the media, which were virtually the only ones in attendance.

According to Al **McGEEHAN**, Holland Mayor and MAM President, cities have lost upwards of \$3 billion in promised revenue sharing in the past six years.

The government is failing at its primary responsibility to protect the citizens, said George **BASAR**, First Vice President and Legislative Committee Chairman of the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police.

Violent crime is up in Michigan, due to the police staff's inability to engage in proactive policing, Basar said.

MAM members are planning on meeting with legislators today to discuss the matter further but no specific meetings have been scheduled. Root said that it is really up to the legislators to meet with them and hopes they will get to speak with them at some time during the day.