



michigan municipal league

## PRESS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## Michigan Police Chiefs Support League's Position to Amend PA 312 for Greater Public Safety

LANSING, Michigan (Feb. 1, 2011) - Gov. Rick Snyder recently asked the Michigan Municipal League for reform ideas that would help local communities cut costs and improve public services. Amending Public Act 312 is vital to making that goal a reality.

In fact, the need to put more public safety officers back on our streets has prompted the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police (MACP) to officially support crucial, common-sense changes to Public Act 312, the law requiring binding arbitration in labor disputes between a local unit of government and a public safety union.

As currently written, PA 312 does not define what a community's "ability to pay" really means, nor does it make those financial circumstances a top priority during arbitration. The unintended result is that taxpayers are paying more to keep fewer police officers and firefighters on the job.

"PA 312 makes it much more difficult to control costs and provide the long-term planning that communities must do in this difficult economic environment," stated Howell Police Chief George Basar, legislative chairman for MACP. "The MACP will continue to work with the Michigan Municipal League in their efforts to amend PA 312 in a meaningful way. The future of our local public safety operations depends on it."

The League is working on a slew of amendments to PA 312, including a provision that would make it mandatory that state-appointed arbitrators first consider a community's ability to pay before making awards on issues regarding union compensation. We are pleased that the MACP has joined us in the effort to make our local units of government more cost-effective, and to make our communities safer places to work and live. Go [here](#) and [here](#) to learn about the other statewide reforms proposed by the League.

*Michigan Municipal League advocates on behalf of its member communities in Lansing, Washington D.C., and the courts; provides educational opportunities for elected and appointed municipal officials; and assists municipal leaders in administering services to their communities through League programs and services.*

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