

# REPLACE DON'T ERASE

*April 18, 2012  
Virg Bernero  
Mayor, City of Lansing:*

Thank you and welcome to Lansing. I wish I could say that with a smile but I really can't. The one word I would use to describe what's happening is irresponsible. We've worked hard in Lansing and this is what it's about. It's about places like this (indicating the fire station he's standing in) where we answer 911 calls. You know, I know what happens in the Legislature. It's politics. I understand they have to answer letters. We answer 911 calls, it's what we do. We respond to people when they're at their worst, when they need help now. And want to be able to respond, we want to be able to be there. That's what this is about. That's what these good people are about (referencing the dozens of firefighters and police officers standing around him) – responding in an emergency. We need to be able to continue to do that. It takes resources. We've had to make cuts in Lansing for a variety of reasons – declining property taxes, declines over the years in revenue sharing. We have all sorts of pressure, all of us have made cuts. We raised our taxes here in Lansing. Our voters said we care about what goes on with police and fire, we'll pay four mills more. Meanwhile the Legislator and apparently the governor want to pull the rug out from underneath us while we fight and struggle to maintain basic services. It's wrong and it's irresponsible. ... I hope we can stop it. I hope that the citizens rise up with us, join us. We got a great coalition here, the MML has been on this. We just can't absorb any more cuts. There's nowhere to turn. We have nowhere else to go. The Legislature has options, the governor has options. They need to be responsible as opposed to being irresponsible. Now I'll turn it over to my sister mayor, Mayor Karen Majewski of Hamtramck.

####