

MIRS Capitol Capsule, Thursday, October 22, 2009

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"This is the first angry group I've spoken in front of that didn't end in tear gas."

- East Lansing Police Chief Thomas **WIBERT** in his opening comments at the Michigan Municipal League's Capitol rally in protest of the Legislature's recent 11.1 percent revenue sharing cut.

Locals Rally For Revenue Sharing

Public safety in Michigan will be at greater risk unless the Legislature and Governor restore an 11.1 percent revenue sharing cut that jeopardizes the jobs of local police and firefighters, local government officials warned at a Capitol rally today.

The roughly 200 who showed up at the "Rally for Public Safety" listened to some hot comments from local officials who have grown tired of the alleged \$3 billion in state revenue sharing cuts they've shouldered over the past eight years. They claim the cuts, up to this point, have killed the jobs of more than 1,800 police officers and 2,400 firefighters.

Grand Rapids City Commissioner David **LaGRAND** likened the legislators to "bad drunks in a bar fight," stumbling from one issue to the next. The best quote may have come from East Lansing Police Chief Tim **WIBERT**, who opened his remarks with, "This is the first angry group I've spoken in front of that didn't end in tear gas."

Other local officials present at today's event include Huntington Woods Mayor Pro Tem and MML president Jeff **JANKS**; Troy Councilmember Mary **KERWIN**; Norton Shores Fire Department Chief Dave **PURCHASE**, who also is Western Regional Director and Legislative Liaison for the Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs; Lansing Mayor Virg **BERNERO** and Lansing Charter Supervisor John **DAHER**.