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David E. Rutledge  
Michigan House of Representatives  
District 54

Committee Membership  
Local Government  
Military and Veterans Affairs  
Transportation and Infrastructure

July 20, 2015

Sheriff Jerry Clayton  
2021 Hogback Road  
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Dear Sheriff Clayton:

In recent weeks, there have been several violent incidents in the Ypsilanti area community resulting in loss of life. Moreover, these crimes appear to be connected and have given rise to rumors of retaliation, which in turn threaten to escalate into more violent acts. It has also been reported that there may even be an element of rival gang involvement. As you are aware, this is not the norm for our area and the full community is understandably concerned.

Given the circumstances of the recent murders and the revelation from police intelligence units that there is a potential for retaliation and gang involvement, I believe a holistic effort in full cooperation with the Ypsilanti Police Department is paramount. Therefore, I am requesting that you increase your presence within the City of Ypsilanti through participation in routine patrols and assisting as needed in any other duties to ensure the protection of our area community members. This request is made on behalf of the leadership within the Ypsilanti area, including surrounding townships of Ypsilanti and Superior. We all believe that this investigation requires the additional resources of the Sheriff's Office under your leadership. Because of already established internal protocols, your Office could also be helpful in providing clear communication about progress on this matter, in addition to alerting the community of how people can assist. I am sincerely requesting your help and the additional resources that you can bring to this investigation. I will also stand with you in mobilizing our community with whatever assistance the law enforcement community may need.

You have played a key role in elevating public safety in our community to a priority. The Eastern Washtenaw Safety Alliance (EWSA) is a tangible example of how the leaders of different units of government can come together in a coordinated way to make the best use of our collective public safety resources. Now is the time for EWSA to demonstrate the power of the coordinated resources of the Ypsilanti Police Department, Eastern Michigan University's Public Safety Department, and the Sheriff's Office. I have no doubt that the general public will lock arms with the police and send a strong message that violence in our community will not be tolerated, especially against our young people. We must not—we will not – allow a criminal element, whether random or organized, to get a foothold in our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David E. Rutledge". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David E. Rutledge  
State Representative