

# **ANN ARBOR POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION**

122 S. Main Street  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

**May 16, 2011**

**Mayor and City Council,**

**We are writing to you today in regards to the proposed cuts to the Ann Arbor Police Department. The continued reductions in police department personnel have reached a critical level. Former Administrator Roger Fraser has stated that overall the city has experienced a 30% reduction in FTE's; however the police department has experienced a reduction of over 39% since 2001.**

**Since 2001, patrol numbers have been reduced from 86 patrol officers, including "beat" officers, down to 58 officers. Only one "beat" officer remains and is currently assigned to AATA. This equals a 33% reduction in available patrol officers. There are only 4 officers assigned to "Administrative" positions, such as Training, Property, Traffic Safety and Court Officer. All of these functions are critical and would need to be maintained.**

**In a national comparison of cities with major universities and similar populations, Ann Arbor ranks second to last for the number of city police officers. All of the universities included in this comparison maintain their own police agencies, the same as the University of Michigan. We have attached a chart to this letter for your review.**

**While the University of Michigan maintains an excellent police department, they do not respond to city calls for service. Their primary job is the protection, safety and security of those on the university campus, and of University of Michigan property.**

**The officers that would potentially be laid off have a dedicated track record of service to the city. Officer Rene Bondy, Officer Brad Rougeau, Officer Corey Mills, and Officer Jason Kitts have over 5 years of service to the citizens of Ann Arbor and bring additional experience from their service as police officers at other agencies.**

**In addition to a reduction in sworn personnel, the proposed budget also calls for a reduction of 2 dispatchers. Dispatcher Dawn Keippela and Dispatcher Jennifer Stepp have over 3 ½ years and over 1 year of service, respectively, to the citizens of Ann Arbor in a critical and highly stressful job.**

**AAPD dispatchers currently answer 60% of all calls that come into the joint City/County Dispatch Center, including calls for service that originate outside of the city. Patrol officers are routinely pulled from patrol duties to fill vacancies in dispatch, further reducing the number of officers available for patrol.**

**The civilian position that is slated to be cut also reduces the number of officers available for patrol. Police Service Specialist (PSS) Chris Briney has over 13 years of dedicated service to the City of Ann Arbor. If his position is cut, a police officer would have to be pulled from patrol to cover this front desk position. Since 2001, civilian (PSS) support staff has been cut from 14 down to 6. The proposed cut would further reduce this to 5.**

**While the AAPD represents a large portion of the general fund budget, it was not until 2004 when fleet and facility charges along with IT charges which were added to our budget did our cost soar. On average, the AAPD is charged approximately \$18,000/year per vehicle; keeping in mind these vehicles are purchased by fleet in the mid \$20,000 range. In addition, most of these vehicles are in service for 4 to 5 years, resulting in the AAPD paying approximately \$90,000 (over 5 years) for a vehicle which originally costs approximately \$23,000.**

**In addition to the fleet charges, AAPD is billed over \$5,500 per year per computer assigned to the police department. This includes every desktop and in car computer as well as all associated licenses.**

**The AAPOA has voluntarily agreed to cost saving measures in an effort to help the City reduce costs. Some of those measures include:**

- Agreeing to work 12 hour shifts. The AAPOA pursued a Memorandum of Understanding, which moved patrol personnel to 12 hour shifts. This change accounts for a 15% savings in patrol personnel costs and has allowed the police department to restore one traffic officer position and one temporary detective position. With the reduced numbers of patrol officers, shift staffing could not be accomplished without the 12 hour agreement.**

- Even though our current contract is expired, the AAPOA agreed to a change in our vision insurance plan, resulting in the combined savings of more than \$132,016 over the course 4 years.

While the City has filed for P.A. 312 Arbitration, the AAPOA continues to be open to negotiate a resolution with the city, without having to complete the P.A. 312 process.

Over the course of the past 10 years, the AAPD has been forced to move from proactive policing to re-active policing. While it has been stated that there has been a reduction in crime statistics, at least some of that reduction is due to the fact that there are fewer officers available for proactive enforcement. A reduction in reported crime does not necessarily mean a reduction in actual crime occurrences.

As you consider the potential budget cuts to the police department, we ask that you consider the points as outlined above. Continued cuts will most certainly result in longer response times, reduced enforcement efforts and an even greater reduction in police services to the citizens of Ann Arbor.

Very Respectfully,



**John Elkins**  
**President**  
**Ann Arbor Police Officers Association**



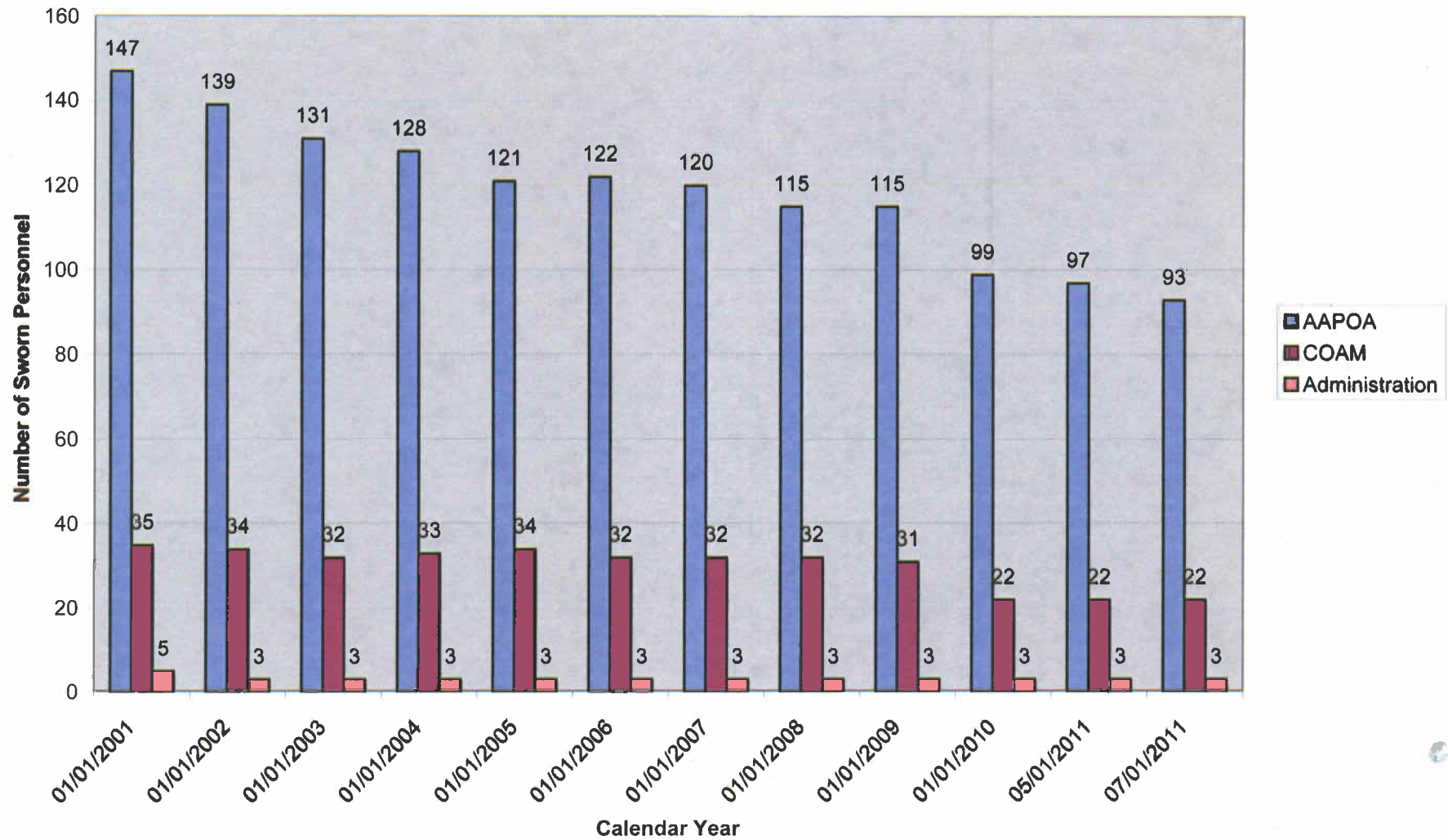
**Jamie Adkins**  
**Vice President- Bargaining**  
**Ann Arbor Police Officers Association**

**National Comparison by  
Population/University Location/Number of City Officers**

<b>COMPARISON CTY</b>	<b>POPULATION</b>	<b>UNIVERSITY</b>	<b>STUDENT POPULATION</b>	<b># OF CITY OFFICERS</b>
New Haven, CT	123,626	Yale/Southern CT State/Albertus Maguns	25,331	418
Columbia, SC	116,278	Univ. of South Carolina	28,132	400
Tallahassee, FL	150,624	Florida State/Florida A & M	46,097	360
Athens, GA	101,489	Univ. of Georgia	31,288	231
Berkeley, CA	102,743	Univ. of CA - Berkeley	31,277	188
Ft. Collins, CO	118,652	Colodoro State	26,807	170
Ann Arbor	114,000	University of Michigan	41,028	124
Provo, UT	105,166	Brigham Young Univ.	32,554	113

\* All listed Universities maintain a DPS

## CHANGES IN AAPD SWORN PERSONNEL BY SUPERVISION



**AAPOA SWORN PERSONNEL WITH PLANNED REDUCTIONS 07/01/2011**

