



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Violent Crime Coordinating Council

c/o Department of Public Safety, Office of Justice Programs
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Dodge County Sheriff Jim Jensen, Chair
Plymouth Police Chief Michael Goldstein, Vice- Chair

January 29, 2014

Senator Dave Thompson
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
State Office Building, Room 131
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Susan Allen
577 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Thompson and Representative Allen:

The Violent Crimes Coordinating Council (VCCC) was established by the Minnesota Legislature in 2010 to provide guidance related to the investigation and prosecution of drug crime. At the December 11, 2013 VCCC meeting, members voted to join with Minnesota County Attorney's Association in opposition to proposed legislation limiting the use of asset seizure and forfeiture.

The Office of the State Auditor recently conducted a review of all 23 Violent Crime Enforcement Teams funded by the Department of Public Safety and noted compliance with asset seizure and forfeiture requirements of the state *Multijurisdictional Task Force Operating Procedures and Guidelines Manual*. The Statewide Gang and Drug Coordinator regularly review VCET operations and provide training and technical assistance on best practices in gang and drug enforcement.

The VCCC supports ongoing oversight of Violent Crime Enforcement Teams rather than changing the state law and thus do not support Senate Files 873 & 874 or House Files 1081 & 1082. We believe that there are adequate provisions in the current forfeiture statute to protect the rights of the citizens of Minnesota and support law enforcement in maintaining public safety.

Sincerely,

James J. Jensen
VCCC Chair
Jim Jensen
Dodge County Sheriff
22 East Sixth Street
Mantorville, MN 55955


VCCC Vice Chair
Michael Goldstein
Plymouth Police Department
3400 Plymouth Blvd
Plymouth, MN 55447

Developing an overall strategy to ameliorate the harm caused to the public by gang and drug crime within the state of Minnesota