



September 25, 2018

Governor John Kasich
Riffe Center, 30th Floor
77 S High St
Columbus, OH 43215

Governor Kasich;

The Ohio Municipal League, on behalf of our 749 members, respectfully request the creation and implementation of programs that would ensure local law enforcement have access to requisite funds, training and staff to meet the requirements to file certain protection orders and warrants into the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) database.

Ohio's municipalities are dedicated to ensuring our communities are safe places to raise a family and grow a business. Our cities and villages are supportive of efforts made to make municipalities safer. However, we believe the executive order signed on Monday is misdirected. The executive order penalizes non-compliant law enforcement agencies with sanctions, financial penalties and loss of access to the database in question. This is a stick; what local law enforcement agencies need is a carrot – programs that ensure they have access to the manpower and technology they currently lack.

According to The State of NICS in Ohio 2018 Report, of the 507 law enforcement agencies who submitted a complete survey, 70 said they were not able to submit protection orders and warrants to LEADS for NICS reporting because they did not have access to LEADS. Others said they did not have the requisite staff, while others said the process was too time-consuming, preventing their office from complying.

Municipal law enforcement across Ohio wants to do their part to ensure those who should not have firearms do not have access to firearms. There is no evidence that these agencies simply do not want to comply with reporting requirements – however, there is evidence that due to financial cuts that have lead to cuts in staff and updated technology, they are simply unable to comply.

The Ohio Municipal League and our members would welcome the opportunity to work with your administration to develop programs that ensure local law enforcement agencies are able to comply with the existing reporting requirements. Municipalities are eager to work to ensure that financial barriers no longer prevent them from complying with the reporting requirements designed to help guarantee safer communities across Ohio.

Respectfully,

Kent Scarrett
Executive Director
Ohio Municipal League