



SUPERVISOR
KARYN MILLER

CLERK
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TREASURER
LISA R. ANDERSON

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF FLINT

1490 S. Dye Road
Flint, Michigan 48532

TRUSTEES
BARB VERT
CAROL PFAFF-DAHL
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Mr. Larry Royster
Clerk of the Court
Michigan Supreme Court
P.O. Box 30052
Lansing, MI 48909

Re: **ADM File No. 2021-35**

Dear Clerk Royster,

On behalf of the Charter Township of Flint I am writing to express my opposition and detail my concerns regarding the proposed amendments to MCR 7.202. We believe that these amendments would have a detrimental impact on our Township and the broader community, and we urge that the Michigan Supreme Court reject the proposed amendments.

The proposed rule change would have a direct and substantial impact on our township's legal costs. Previously, we could rely on the early resolution of frivolous or immunized lawsuits, but this proposed rule change removes that level of protection. Under the proposed new rule, we would need to allocate significantly more resources to reach the state Court of Appeals and further argue our case before them. The trial proceedings would not be automatically stayed on our appeal by leave to the Court of Appeals concerning the question of immunity. This would put a strain on our budget, which is already stretched thin as we work to provide essential services to our residents. With extended litigation, our township would struggle to sustain an increase in legal expenses and employee wages.

Additionally, the proposed rule change will have a direct impact on the rates for our legal defense insurance. As a result of the anticipated increased cost and duration of claims against the township, as well as the higher risk associated with defending them, any lawsuit covered by insurance defense will become more expensive. Insurance companies, as businesses, will need to recover those added costs, likely by increasing rates on the township. Unfortunately, our township does not have the same financial flexibility as larger entities like the State of Michigan.

We strongly urge the Michigan Supreme Court to consider the significant and detrimental impact this rule change would have on our Township and reject the proposed amendments. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Karyn Miller, Supervisor
Charter Township of Flint