

COUNTY OF OAKLAND
OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

MICHAEL J. BOUCHARD



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sheriff Praises AG Opinion on Illegal Immigrants and Driver's Licenses

December 28, 2007 (Oakland County) – Today, Oakland County Sheriff Michael J. Bouchard lauded Michigan Attorney General Opinion #7210, issued yesterday, which states that illegal immigrants are not Michigan residents and therefore, cannot possess a valid driver's license. Bouchard commended the opinion as a law enforcement officer and as a former State Senator.

During his time in the legislature, Bouchard sponsored a bill prohibiting illegal immigrants from holding driver's licenses. Though the bill did not become law, he remains unwavering in his belief that driving in Michigan is a privilege and should be granted only to those who follow the law.

“Those living illegally in the United States should not be able to enjoy the same benefits as law abiding citizens,” Bouchard said. “From an administrative standpoint, it is the right thing to do. From a law enforcement standpoint, it is a question of safety.”

The Sheriff took a moment to remember the off-duty Flint police officer who was killed by an illegal alien behind the wheel this past year.

“Tougher penalties for those who are in our Country illegally could prevent such tragedies from ever happening. Senseless loss of life, as in the case of this young officer, needs to stop,” Bouchard concluded. “This recent opinion is certainly a step in the right direction.”

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