



LOUISVILLE METRO COUNCIL  
OFFICE OF PRESIDENT DAVID JAMES

March 1, 2022

**Open Letter to the Kentucky General Assembly House Committee on Local Government**

Dear Members of the Committee:

As the President of Louisville's Metro Council, I politely urge this committee and the General Assembly as a whole to oppose HB314. In addition to significant fiscal impacts on our city, it would lay the groundwork to unwind our city-county merger and undo – from Frankfort – the will of Louisville and Jefferson County voters from 20 years ago.

Citizens in Metro's unincorporated areas have a vote in how their city is run: unincorporated does not mean unrepresented, and every voter in Metro Louisville has a councilmember. Over the past several months, Metro Council has considered ordinances ranging from Metro Corrections to ethics reporting to expanding childcare regulations. At no point was there a groundswell of our constituents asking any one of us to bring this issue to Frankfort for a resolution.

While I have great respect for the sponsor and co-sponsors of the legislation, and acknowledge that merger is imperfect, the Jefferson County delegation and members of this General Assembly have my commitment as President of the 26-member Metro Council to scrutinize 20 years of merger and make recommendations to a future General Assembly, if appropriate. A more prudent approach would be for Frankfort to hit the brakes and allow Metro Council to initiate a working group of business and community leaders, stakeholders, and the public to examine merger two decades later.

I urge you to share my opposition to HB 314. Thank you for your consideration of this request, and for all you continue to do for the people of Kentucky.

Sincerely,

David James  
President Louisville Metro Council  
CC: Kentucky General Assembly House Leadership