**Response to Public Comment November 2016 Quarterly SILC Business Meeting:**

There were several serious items put before the council during public comment. The council strives to evaluate all public comment received. There were three major areas addressed by members of the public, violations of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), violations of the Open Meetings Act (OMA) and concern about budgetary spending. Each item will be addressed separately.

**Freedom of Information:**

After a requested Division Legal review by the Attorney General’s office, a determination was made that SILC has a “strong basis for exclusion from FOIA in light of SILCs placement within the Executive Office of the Governor’s and its source of funding.” The SILC has been located under the Governor’s office since it’s origination.

**Open Meetings Act:**

SILC is considered a public body and is subject to the Open Meetings Act. SILC strives to ensure its quarterly business and public hearings comply with the OMA. What is at dispute from public comment is SILCs Sub-Committees meetings. Attorney General Schutte’s advisory document to public bodies speaks to this: (http://www.michigan.gov/documents/ag/OMA\_handbook\_287134\_7.pdf)

**Advisory committees and the OMA** – the OMA does not apply to committees and subcommittees composed of less than a quorum of the full public body if they "are merely advisory or only capable of making 'recommendations concerning the exercise of governmental authority.'"

In order to honor public comment, SILC has requested a division legal review to ensure that SILC’s committee structure is compliant with the Open Meetings Act. Upon receipt of the review, SILC will immediately make policy adjustments if required.

**Budget Spending:**The Michigan SILC has made no payment, purchased services, scheduled payment or generated a financial expenditure to the following:

Disability Network West Michigan

Sabo Public Relations

Warner, Norcross & Judd

SILC financial decisions are made by a full council vote following its corporate by-laws as well as state and federal law.