



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

HALL OF JUSTICE

ROBERT G. LUNA, SHERIFF



February 2, 2023

The Honorable Freddie Rodriguez
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 5250
Sacramento, California 94249

Dear Assemblyman Rodriguez:

ASSEMBLY BILL 97 – SUPPORT
AS INTRODUCED
GHOST GUNS

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is proud to support Assembly Bill 97, which seeks to confront the growing problem of ghost guns in our communities.

Existing law requires firearms to be inscribed with a unique serial number and prohibits an individual from removing or altering that serial number. Violating these provisions is punishable as a felony. Beginning July 2018, California required residents who assemble their own firearms or possess an unserialized firearm to obtain a unique serial number from the Department of Justice and to inscribe that serial number on the firearm. A violation of this requirement is currently punishable as a misdemeanor.

Unserialized firearms, also known as ghost guns, are increasingly being recovered across the nation. Because these firearms are untraceable, criminals often use these dangerous weapons in the commission of crimes. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department seized over 1300 ghost guns in 2021 alone. In 2020, two of my deputies were ambushed and shot multiple times by a suspect using a ghost gun. Current laws are not strong enough to deter the possession of these unserialized firearms.

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Assembly Bill 97 would make possession of an unserialized firearm or firearm with an altered, removed, or obliterated serial number punishable as a felony.

I appreciate your commitment to issues regarding public safety. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at _____, or my Legislative Advocate, Lieutenant Brandon Epp at _____.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R. Luna".

ROBERT G. LUNA
SHERIFF



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

HALL OF JUSTICE

ROBERT G. LUNA, SHERIFF



February 2, 2023

The Honorable Joe Patterson
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Room 4530
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Assemblyman Patterson:

ASSEMBLY BILL 18 - SUPPORT CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES: WRITTEN ADVISORY

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is proud to support Assembly Bill 18, seeking to create a written advisory relating to specified controlled substance crimes.

People convicted of Driving Under the Influence in California are required to sign a form known as the Watson Advisement. The purpose of the Watson advisement is to create a legal record showing the person is aware of the dangers that DUI poses not only to the driver, but to others. Furthermore, if the person is ever involved in a subsequent DUI, and that DUI leads to an accident that kills someone, the person can be tried for second degree murder.

Assembly Bill 18 seeks to require the same advisement for people convicted of certain narcotic offenses. Assembly Bill 18 would require a person who is convicted of, or who pleads guilty or no contest to California Health and Safety Codes 11351, 11352, or 11379.6, to receive a written advisory of the danger of manufacturing or distribution of controlled substances and that, if a person dies as a result of that action, the manufacturer or distributor can be charged with voluntary manslaughter or murder. The bill would require that the fact the advisory was given be on the record and recorded on the abstract of the conviction.

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Assemblyman Patterson

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February 2, 2023

I appreciate your commitment to issues regarding public safety. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at _____, or my Legislative Advocate, Lieutenant Brandon Epp at _____.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R. Luna".

ROBERT G. LUNA
SHERIFF



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

HALL OF JUSTICE

ROBERT G. LUNA, SHERIFF



February 2, 2023

The Honorable Kate Sanchez
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 4340
Sacramento, California 94249

Dear Assemblymember Sanchez:

**ASSEMBLY BILL 89 – SUPPORT
PAROLE HEARINGS: ATTORNEY NOTICE**

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is proud to support Assembly Bill (AB) 89, seeking to support crime victims during parole hearings.

Existing law requires the Board of Parole Hearings to conduct parole suitability hearings and determine whether an inmate is suitable for parole. Additionally, existing law authorizes the victim, the victim's next of kin, the victim's family members, or two representatives designated by the victim or next of kin, to appear personally or by counsel, at parole suitability hearings and to express their views concerning the inmate and the case.

Typically, district attorneys send a representative to appear at a parole hearing on behalf of crime victims to argue that an inmate is unsuitable for release, emphasize the seriousness of the inmate's crimes, and rebut any inaccurate or misleading arguments made by the inmate or inmate's attorney about the circumstances of the crime, legal issues in the case, or the seriousness of the offense.

In order to protect the existing rights of crime victims, AB 89 will require a district attorney's office, or the Attorney General's office that prosecutes a case to provide reasonable notice to crime victims and their next of kin if they will not be sending a representative to the parole hearing.

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Assemblymember Sanchez

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February 2, 2023

I appreciate your commitment to issues regarding public safety. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at _____, or my Legislative Advocate, Lieutenant Brandon Epp at _____.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R. Luna".

ROBERT G. LUNA
SHERIFF



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

HALL OF JUSTICE

ROBERT G. LUNA, SHERIFF



February 27, 2023

The Honorable Chris R. Holden
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Room 5650
Sacramento, California 94249

Dear Assemblyman Holden:

**ASSEMBLY BILL 280 – OPPOSE
SEGREGATED CONFINEMENT**

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department must respectfully oppose Assembly Bill (AB) 280, relating to segregated confinement.

California's county jails vary vastly in their size, staffing, and incarcerated populations. The Los Angeles County Jails currently house roughly 14,000 people, many of which have complex mental health treatment needs. Unfortunately, AB 280 creates a one-size-fits-all approach to prison and jail population management and segregated confinement. Our oldest jail was built over 60 years ago, our youngest opened over 25 years ago. Our jails were not designed to accommodate the limitations AB 280 seeks to impose.

The restrictions in this bill will preclude many offenders from being confined in a way that meets the bill's definitions. The term "designated population," which is the trigger for many of the restrictions on the use of segregated confinement, includes persons under 26 years of age or older than 59, or who are pregnant or in the first eight weeks of the postpartum recovery period, or has a mental or physical disability. Beyond that, the bill's additional restrictions and reporting requirements will practically eliminate any use of segregated confinement, including when such placement is necessary for the security of the facility, individual inmates, and staff.

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The Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) is best suited to set minimum standards for custodial facilities. Adopting and revising these minimum standards is an ongoing process that involves stakeholders from all perspectives and allows for evolution and refinement of requirements and processes without the burden of having to amend statute every time a change is needed. The BSCC and the practitioners who are responsible for supervision, housing, and rehabilitation of incarcerated persons are best situated to make decisions about best practices and facility standards.

In expressing the need for this bill, you stated, "The practice of confining an individual alone in a concrete cell for months, years, and even decades on end grossly undermines the eighth amendment, protecting us all from cruel and unusual punishment. This is a human rights issue. Aside from the fact that solitary confinement only diminishes the prospects of successful rehabilitation, there are large bodies of research linking solitary confinement to self-harm, the deterioration of one's mental health and even suicide. We have even seen instances of pregnant women giving birth in solitary confinement. This is simply not right. California must discard this tortuous and counterproductive practice."

I agree whole heartedly with that statement. However, I can assure you this is not occurring within the Los Angeles County Jails. I also agree we need to further study our use of segregated confinement and develop a plan that will balance the safety of our staff and our incarcerated population while considering the physical limitations of our facilities.

As written, AB 280 would create an unsafe environment for deputy staff, civilian staff, and the incarcerated. First, we simply do not have the level of staffing necessary to comply with the bill. We would need to enhance our staffing considerably. Second, Men's Central Jail and Twin Towers were not designed and are not equipped to comply with a law that severely restricts the use of segregated confinement.

I agree with the Governor's comments in his veto message regarding AB 2632 last year when he stated, *"AB 2632 establishes standards that are overly broad and exclusions that could risk the safety of both the staff and incarcerated population within these facilities. Specifically, this bill would categorically prohibit the placement of large portions of the incarcerated population in segregated housing - even if such a placement is to protect the safety of all incarcerated individuals in the institution. I am additionally concerned that*

the restrictions in this bill could interrupt the rehabilitation efforts of other incarcerated people and the staff at these facilities."

Although I appreciate and share your commitment to serving our incarcerated population, I cannot support this bill as written. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at _____, or my Legislative Advocate, Lieutenant Brandon Epp at _____.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Luna". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "R" and "L".

ROBERT G. LUNA
SHERIFF



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

HALL OF JUSTICE

ROBERT G. LUNA, SHERIFF



February 27, 2023

The Honorable Richard D. Roth
California State Senate Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 7510
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Senator Roth:

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 16 – SUPPORT
DEPUTY ISALAH H. CORDERO MEMORIAL HIGHWAY**

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is proud to support Senate Concurrent Resolution 16 (SCR 16). This measure would designate a specified portion of State Highway Route 60 in the County of Riverside as the Deputy Isaiah A. Cordero Memorial Highway.

On December 29, 2022, at 32 years of age, Deputy Cordero was shot in the city of Jurupa Valley, when he pulled over an individual for a traffic violation. Deputy Cordero was immediately transported to Riverside Community Hospital, but he succumbed to his injuries and passed away later that night. Deputy Cordero was loved by his coworkers and the communities he served throughout his career. Deputy Cordero had a promising career ahead of him, but his life was tragically cut short.

In recognition of Deputy Cordero's contributions, commitment, and sacrifice during his career in law enforcement serving and protecting the residents of Riverside County, it is a fitting tribute to designate a portion of State Highway Route 60 in the County of Riverside as the Deputy Isaiah A. Cordero Memorial Highway.

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Senator Roth

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February 27, 2023

I appreciate your commitment to issues involving public safety and thank you for authoring this important legislation. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at _____, or my Legislative Advocate, Lieutenant Brandon Epp at _____.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R. Luna".

ROBERT G. LUNA
SHERIFF



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

HALL OF JUSTICE

ROBERT G. LUNA, SHERIFF



February 28, 2023

The Honorable Kelly Seyarto
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 7120
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Senator Seyarto:

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 25 – SUPPORT
DEPUTY DARNELL ANDREW CALHOUN MEMORIAL HIGHWAY**

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is proud to support Senate Concurrent Resolution 25 (SCR 25). This measure would designate a specified portion of State Highway Route 15 in the city of Lake Elsinore and the County of Riverside as the Deputy Darnell Andrew Calhoun Memorial Highway.

On January 13, 2023, at 30 years of age, Darnell was murdered on duty upon arriving at a call for service in the City of Lake Elsinore. Darnell worked in his early years at his family-owned restaurant in the City of Murietta before becoming a San Diego Police Officer in 2019, and continued his law enforcement career as a Deputy Sheriff with the Riverside County Sheriff's Department where he worked patrol out of the Lake Elsinore Station. Darnell was loved by his coworkers and by the communities he served throughout his law enforcement career.

In recognition of Deputy Calhoun's contributions, commitment, and sacrifice during his career in law enforcement, it is a fitting tribute to designate a portion of State Highway Route 15 in the city of Lake Elsinore and the County of Riverside as the Deputy Darnell Andrew Calhoun Memorial Highway.

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Senator Seyarto

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February 28, 2023

I appreciate your commitment to issues involving public safety and thank you for authoring this important legislation. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at _____, or my Legislative Advocate, Lieutenant Brandon Epp at _____.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R. Luna".

ROBERT G. LUNA
SHERIFF



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

HALL OF JUSTICE

ROBERT G. LUNA, SHERIFF



March 1, 2023

The Honorable Thomas J. Umberg
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Room 6530
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Senator Umberg:

SENATE BILL 44 – SUPPORT CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES: WRITTEN ADVISORY

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is proud to support Senate Bill 44, seeking to create a written advisory relating to specified controlled substance crimes.

People convicted of Driving Under the Influence (DUI) in California are required to sign a form known as the Watson Advisement. The purpose of the Watson Advisement is to create a legal record showing the person is aware of the dangers that DUI poses not only to the driver, but to others. Furthermore, if the person is ever involved in a subsequent DUI, and that DUI leads to an accident that kills someone, the person can be tried for second degree murder.

Senate Bill 44 seeks to require the same advisement for people convicted of certain narcotic offenses. Senate Bill 44 would require a person who is convicted of, or who pleads guilty or no contest to California Health and Safety Codes 11351, 11352, or 11379.6, to receive a written advisory of the danger of manufacturing or distribution of controlled substances and that, if a person dies as a result of that action, the manufacturer or distributor can be charged with voluntary manslaughter or murder. The bill would require that the fact the advisory was given be on the record and recorded on the abstract of the conviction.

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Senator Umberg

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March 1, 2023

I appreciate your commitment to issues regarding public safety. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at _____, or my Legislative Advocate, Lieutenant Brandon Epp at _____.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R. Luna".

ROBERT G. LUNA
SHERIFF



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

HALL OF JUSTICE

ROBERT G. LUNA, SHERIFF



March 9, 2023

The Honorable Dr. Corey Jackson
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 6120
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Assemblyman Jackson:

**ASSEMBLY BILL 742 – OPPOSE
LAW ENFORCEMENT: POLICE CANINES**

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department must respectfully oppose Assembly Bill 742, relating to the use of police canines by law enforcement personnel.

The bill intends to prohibit the use of police canines in the following ways:

- A peace officer shall not use an unleashed police canine to arrest or apprehend a person.
- A police canine shall not be used for crowd control at any assembly, protest, or demonstration.
- A police canine shall not be used in any circumstance to bite a person.
- Lastly, the bill strictly limits the use of police canines by law enforcement to search and rescue operations, and explosives/narcotics detection.

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I am in agreement with the section of the bill that seeks to prohibit the use of canines for crowd control at any assembly, protest, or demonstration. In fact, my current policy resembles this prohibition. However, I cannot support a bill that severely restricts an officer's ability to employ a proven, effective, and less lethal force option that can de-escalate other potentially life-threatening situations.

In expressing the need for this bill, you refer to a *Bloomberg* news article that in turn refers to a Police Assessment Resource Center (PARC) report published 10 years ago that studied the use of canines within my department. At the time, PARC was a non-profit organization focused on the oversight of police activities.

Although the PARC report suggested the need to re-evaluate our use of canines, the report in no way suggested a sweeping ban on the use of police canines. In fact, to the contrary, the report highlighted the benefits of the use of police canines. The report stated, *"Canines are a use of force tool that can play an important role in crisis situations, primarily where a dangerous suspect is hiding from deputies. Used properly, this tool can greatly enhance the efficiency of resolving the crisis, prevent deputy-involved shootings, and improve officer safety."*

The PARC report went on to issue a caution and note, *"The ease of releasing a dog to go bite someone, however, is partly what led to the over use of canines in years past. The severity of a dog bite as a consequence, when compared to a youth joy riding in a car, or someone just running away from officers after committing a low-level crime, has never added up. For this reason, and as the direct result of our negotiations with the LASD, in 1994 the Department drafted its Field Operations Directive to limit the use of canines, and to bring clarity about when they can be used. According to the Directive, canines are only deployed in instances that include: "Searches for felony suspects, or armed misdemeanor suspects, who are wanted for SERIOUS crimes and the circumstances of the situation, present a clear danger to deputy personnel who would otherwise conduct a search without a canine."*

The preservation and reverence of human life is one of the core values of any officer. The use of a law enforcement canine and its handler in situations that warrant deployment offers one of the best chances to honor that value. Like any less lethal force option, a law enforcement canine is unlikely to directly bring about the death of a suspect. Additionally, the use of a canine enhances officer safety since any ambush planned by the suspect would not have a human law enforcement officer as its first target.

My canine deployment policies reflect an understanding of the severe consequences the use of a law enforcement canine may cause. Our canine unit deployments are limited to searches for armed suspects, those who are wanted for serious or violent felonies, and/or where the circumstances of the situation would present a clear physical danger to the law enforcement personnel who would otherwise conduct a search without a canine.

Our canine units are only deployed after extensive verbal warnings and announcements are given to the suspect, bystanders, and surrounding residents that a canine unit will be deployed. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department plays pre-recorded announcements in both English and Spanish by way of loudspeaker public address systems located in our patrol vehicles and helicopters. We supplement those announcements by requiring the canine handler to repeat the announcements and warnings at the entrance to each property or building prior to the search whenever it is practical to do so. All of that is done in the hopes that an incident can be resolved without incident.

Often, the mere presence (both audible and visible) of the canine is enough to dissuade criminal acts or compel a suspect in hiding to surrender without incident. In those instances, the canine's intrinsic value as a de-escalation tool, and a means to obtain a peaceful resolution to a potentially life-threatening situation are most apparent.

AB 742 would eliminate the use of a less lethal force option that has proven to save lives. It would lessen the chance that a dangerous offender might be taken in safely and would deny yet another measure of personal protection from the men and women who have sworn to uphold the laws of this state.

Unfortunately, I cannot support this bill as written. Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to call me directly at _____ or my
Legislative Advocate, Lieutenant Brandon Epp .

Sincerely,



ROBERT G. LUNA
SHERIFF



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

HALL OF JUSTICE

ROBERT G. LUNA, SHERIFF



April 11, 2023

The Honorable Al Muratsuchi
California State Assembly
1020 N Street, Suite 5610
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Assemblyman Muratsuchi:

**ASSEMBLY BILL 74 – SUPPORT
VEHICLES: STREET TAKEOVERS, SIDESHOWS, AND RACING**

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is proud to support Assembly Bill 74, relating to illegal street takeovers, side shows, and racing.

Existing law under California Vehicle Code (VC) 23109, provides penalties for those who commit or "aid and abet" exhibitions of speed and speed contests occurring on a highway or an off-street parking facility. However, the law narrowly defines speed contests, and the penalties are minimal. For example, for an offense covered by VC 23109 to become a felony, serious bodily injury must have occurred, and that offense must be the second offense to have occurred within five years. In addition, provisions recently added to VC 23109 that covers street takeovers unfortunately does not take effect for two years. Assembly Bill 74 seeks to have those provisions take effect a year earlier, which would only hasten the positive aspects of the provisions.

Your bill also seeks to clarify the definition of what it means to "aid or abet" qualifying offenses and seeks to establish a clearer understanding of the penalties and to whom they would be applied. Assembly Bill 74 seeks to curb this unlawful and dangerous behavior with firm, well-reasoned clarity. A sense of fairness is also contained in this bill. It offers the court the discretion to release an impounded vehicle if another person who was innocent of the offense would be adversely affected by the loss of the impounded vehicle.

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Illegal street racing was always deadly. Unfortunately, over the years, it has become a frequent occurrence with far more destructive consequences. In the past, illegal racing was a clandestine operation that took place on rural stretches of isolated highways. Today, entire freeways, highway intersections, and retail parking lots are held captive and hundreds of spectators gather to watch a senseless and dangerous display of reckless driving.

The most notable recent death associated with these street takeovers happened on Christmas night of last year. A young, female nursing student was struck and killed by a reckless driver in an intersection in South Los Angeles.

Four months earlier, on August 14th, and less than six miles away, another street takeover resulted in a 15-year-old boy being shot, demonstrating what my deputies and other law enforcement officers have known for years; that associated dangerous activities often follow a gathering, spreading out to affect more areas. In yet another incident, on June 9th, 2021, a 28-year-old mother of five young children was killed in a fiery crash in Palmdale, when her vehicle was struck by a speeding vehicle participating in a race initiated at a parking lot sideshow, happening a block away.

In spite of the outrage and calls for action that followed all of those incidents and these illegal activities continue and the next tragedy will likely occur sooner than later. Every action that is focused on combating this problem should be supported.

I appreciate your commitment to issues regarding public safety. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at _____, or my Legislative Advocate, Lieutenant Brandon Epp at _____.

Sincerely,



ROBERT G. LUNA
SHERIFF



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

HALL OF JUSTICE

ROBERT G. LUNA, SHERIFF



April 11, 2023

The Honorable John Laird
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 8270
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Senator Laird:

**SENATE BILL 564 – SUPPORT
SHERIFF'S CIVIL: FEES**

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is proud to support Senate Bill 564 which seeks a modest increase to specified fees associated with the serving of civil process.

Sheriff's departments throughout the state conduct a variety of civil services. Sheriff's serve summons, levies, and other civil process. For most of these civil services, a nominal fee is charged. This bill will increase some of these fees which have not increased since 2015.

The price of doing business continues to increase with salaries, benefits, and equipment, just to name a few. A modest increase in fees will not entirely cover the Sheriff's costs, but will help to support these important services. Additionally, this modest increase will result in relying less on taxpayer money to conduct these services.

Thank you for authoring this important legislation. I appreciate your commitment to issues regarding public safety. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me directly at _____, or my Legislative Advocate, Lieutenant Brandon Epp at _____

Sincerely,

ROBERT G. LUNA
SHERIFF

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OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

HALL OF JUSTICE

ROBERT G. LUNA, SHERIFF



April 11, 2023

The Honorable Tom Lackey
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 5340
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Assemblyman Lackey:

**ASSEMBLY BILL 1544 – SUPPORT
CHILD ABUSE CENTRAL INDEX**

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is proud to support Assembly Bill (AB) 1544, relating to child abuse reporting.

Existing law designates teachers, peace officers, physicians, and clergy members, among others, as mandated reporters of suspected child abuse or neglect and requires them to report suspected abuse to certain specified agencies. Existing law requires specified local agencies receiving reports from mandated reporters to forward a report to the Department of Justice (DOJ) in writing of every case it investigates of known or suspected child abuse or severe neglect that is determined to be substantiated. The DOJ is required to act as a repository of reports of suspected child abuse and severe neglect and to be maintained in the Child Abuse Central Index (CACI).

As of January 1, 2012, law enforcement is prohibited from forwarding to the DOJ a report in writing of any case it investigates of known or suspected child abuse or severe neglect. Since that time, investigations of suspected child abuse or severe neglect including sexual abuse by, for example, day care providers, clergy, or babysitters have gone unreported.

According to the DOJ CACI internet homepage, "The information in the CACI is available to aid law enforcement investigations, prosecutions, and to provide notification of new child abuse investigation reports involving the same suspects and/or victims." Assembly Bill 1544 will

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ensure the CACI continues to be a critical and useful tool to those charged with child abuse investigations.

Assembly Bill 1544 would delete the provision prohibiting a police or sheriff's department from forwarding a report of suspected child abuse to the DOJ. This bill would require a police or sheriff's department receiving a report of known or suspected child abuse or severe neglect to forward any such reports that are substantiated to the DOJ.

Additionally, AB 1544 will clarify due process procedures for those who wish to contest their inclusion in the CACI.

I appreciate your commitment to issues regarding public safety. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at _____, or my Legislative Advocate, Lieutenant Brandon Epp at _____.

Sincerely,



ROBERT G. LUNA
SHERIFF



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

HALL OF JUSTICE

ROBERT G. LUNA, SHERIFF



April 13, 2023

The Honorable Susan Rubio
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 8710
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Senator Rubio:

**SENATE BILL 603 – SUPPORT
CHILD ADVOCACY CENTERS: RECORDINGS**

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is proud to support Senate Bill 603, relating to the security of recorded forensic interviews of child abuse victims.

Existing law under California Penal Code (PC) allows a county to use a child advocacy center to coordinate a multidisciplinary investigation of reports of child abuse. The law establishes standards to be followed by the advocacy center such as where a victim should be interviewed and what training investigating staff members should have completed. Unfortunately, existing law does not contain guidelines for the release of recorded forensic interviews of child abuse victims. There is nothing in current law that specifically and clearly protects these sensitive recordings from duplication or distribution to individuals who should not have access to the recordings including those suspected of committing the abuse.

Senate Bill 603 would mandate that such recordings could only be released for use in court proceedings through an appropriate court order, and with an accompanying protective order. The bill excludes the recordings from a public records act request, and prohibits the duplication, distribution, and display of the recordings to third parties. Senate Bill 603 provides reasonable exceptions, including the appropriate release of the recordings to law enforcement agencies and county counsel involved in the evaluating the alleged abuse.

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Victims of child abuse deserve the most significant protection possible. Senate Bill 603 intends to defend our most vulnerable victims by protecting their most sensitive disclosures from the possibility of malicious or gratuitous exposure.

I appreciate your commitment to issues regarding public safety. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at _____, or my Legislative Advocate, Lieutenant Brandon Epp at _____.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Robert G. Luna in cursive script.

ROBERT G. LUNA
SHERIFF



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

HALL OF JUSTICE

ROBERT G. LUNA, SHERIFF



March 20, 2023

The Honorable Lori Wilson
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 5150
Sacramento, California 94249

Dear Assemblymember Wilson:

ASSEMBLY BILL 1034 – OPPOSE
FACIAL RECOGNITION AND OTHER BIOMETRIC SURVEILLANCE

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department must respectfully oppose Assembly Bill (AB) 1034.

In 2019 Governor Gavin Newsom signed AB 1215, which made it unlawful for a law enforcement agency to install, activate, or use a biometric surveillance system such as facial recognition technology in connection with a body-worn camera, or data collected by a body-worn camera. Assembly Bill 1215 expired January 1, 2023. The expiration date was placed into the bill after thoughtful negotiations between the bill's author and various law enforcement representatives.

Assembly Bill 1034 seeks to renew this ban until January 1, 2034. In describing the need, the author states, "For Californians, the widespread use of face recognition on police body cameras would be the equivalent of requiring every person to show their photo ID to every police officer they pass. This new mass surveillance system would suppress civic engagement and inspire fear." Unfortunately, this is a common misconception. First, our body cams are not equipped with facial recognition technology. Second, facial recognition technology is not capable of identifying a person, nor is it intended to be a mass surveillance system. Facial recognition technology merely creates a lead based on a person's facial features. It is left up to the individual investigators to follow-up on any leads that may have been generated. Most importantly, a lead generated by facial recognition technology does not create probable cause

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for arrest or a search. Facial recognition technology can assist investigators by generating leads in criminal investigations. Leads that not only point to possible suspects in crimes, but leads that can prove a person's innocence as well.

As you are aware, the 2028 Olympic Games will be played in Los Angeles County where we will be hosting about 15,000 athletes and over 1,000,000 tourists. In 1984 there were almost 5,800,000 tickets sold for the Summer Games in Los Angeles. At that time, Los Angeles County hosted more than 650,000 visiting athletes and spectators. Local law enforcement will bear the brunt of protecting our residents, guests, and athletes during those weeks. We need every available tool to help us accomplish this monumental task. This is not the time to ban emerging public safety technology.

Unfortunately, I cannot support such an extensive ban on a useful evolving technology crucial to public safety. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at _____, or my Legislative Advocate, Lieutenant Brandon Epp at _____.

Sincerely,



ROBERT G. LUNA
SHERIFF



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

HALL OF JUSTICE

ROBERT G. LUNA, SHERIFF



March 8, 2023

The Honorable Bob Archuleta
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 6620
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Senator Archuleta:

**SENATE BILL 514 - SUPPORT
WIRETAPPING: AUTHORIZATION**

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is proud to support Senate Bill 514, relating to wiretaps.

Existing law establishes a procedure for a prosecutor to apply for, and the court to issue, an order authorizing law enforcement to intercept a wire or electronic communication. The current statute remains in effect until January 1, 2025. Senate Bill 514 simply extends the statute, allowing law enforcement and prosecutors to use this most valuable investigative tool until January 1, 2030.

I appreciate your commitment to issues regarding public safety. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at _____, or my Legislative Advocate, Lieutenant Brandon Epp at _____.

Sincerely,

ROBERT G. LUNA
SHERIFF

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OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

HALL OF JUSTICE

ROBERT G. LUNA, SHERIFF



March 16, 2023

The Honorable Thomas J. Umberg
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Room 6530
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Senator Umberg:

**SENATE BILL 64 – SUPPORT
HATE CRIMES: SEARCH WARRANTS**

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is proud to support Senate Bill 64, which seeks to allow a court to issue a search warrant when items to be seized may include evidence that tends to show that a misdemeanor hate crime has occurred or is occurring.

The California Penal Code (P.C.) currently provides twenty instances where law enforcement may be issued a search warrant. Unfortunately, misdemeanor hate crimes as defined in 422.6 P.C. are excluded.

Society has a powerful interest in protecting victims of hate crimes. The destruction and inflammatory potential of hate crimes has been well demonstrated in history and has been on the rise in recent years. The most recent data released by the Federal Bureau of Investigation showed a 12 percent increase in the number of reported hate crimes in the United States in 2021.

This bill would amend 1524 P.C. by adding hate crimes such as those outlined in 422.6 P.C. to the list of instances when law enforcement may submit the matter to judicial review and seek the issuance of a search warrant.

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Senator Umberg

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March 16, 2023

I appreciate your commitment to issues regarding public safety; especially those that seek to enhance the defense of our more vulnerable communities. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at _____, or my Legislative Advocate, Lieutenant Brandon Epp at _____.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Luna". The letters are cursive and fluid.

ROBERT G. LUNA
SHERIFF



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

HALL OF JUSTICE

ROBERT G. LUNA, SHERIFF



March 20, 2023

The Honorable Nancy Skinner
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 8630
Sacramento, California 94249

Dear Senator Skinner:

**SENATE BILL 254 - OPPOSE
CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES: MEDIA ACCESS**

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department must respectfully oppose Senate Bill (SB) 254.

Senate Bill 254 would require all county and city jails in California to permit representatives of the news media to tour a facility and interview incarcerated people in person. This would include prearranged interviews with specified incarcerated people and incarcerated people the news media representatives would happen to encounter during a facility tour.

The bill defines a news media representative as "a duly authorized representative of any news service, online news service, newspaper, or radio or television station or network." However, there is no exclusion for news media representatives who do not meet the security criteria for entering the secure areas of a jail or prison facility. For example, people who are currently on probation or parole, registered as a sex offender, narcotics offender, or arson offender, have an affiliation with a street gang, or have active warrants or pending criminal cases, just to name a few, would not be permitted within our jails currently. As this bill is written, if a journalist had a disqualifying factor in their background, they would conceivably be entitled to enter the jail anyway.

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Under this bill, news media representatives would be allowed to document conditions that exist within the prison or jail in areas that are accessible by incarcerated people, including individual cells. Under this vague language, a news media representative could video record an entire facility tour and would almost certainly capture the images of people incarcerated in that facility without their consent. News media representatives often post footage from news stories on social media platforms. Jails contain incarcerated people who are both pre-trial and sentenced. Protection of the identity of persons in custody should be considered more so than the language in this bill provides.

Could the unfettered taking or posting of the images of incarcerated people by news media representatives result in negative consequences such as the diminished presumption of innocence until proven guilty, lost employment opportunities, or otherwise damage an incarcerated persons reputation?

In describing the need for this bill, the author states, "Until the 1990s, California allowed the news media much greater access to state prisons than it does today. With this access, news media could report on the effectiveness of rehabilitation programs, the quality and accessibility of health care and mental health care, and the use of various disciplinary practices — high-profile issues that have become increasingly controversial."

I welcome and encourage all state officials, members of the public, and members of the press to tour my facilities so long as reasonable security measures are taken into consideration. However, this bill seeks to limit my discretion on who, when, where, and how many people I allow within my jails thus creating a staffing and safety burden I cannot accommodate. The safety of my facilities, staff, and incarcerated population would be unnecessarily compromised if this bill is passed as it is currently written.

Additionally, like many agencies across the country, we too are experiencing hiring and retention challenges. Based on my assessment of the demands the provisions of this bill would require, I essentially would need to create and maintain a new team of multiple deputies, supervisors, and clerical staff whose sole responsibility would be to coordinate and escort news media tours throughout my jail facilities. Such a diversion of personnel from more critical functions would be unfortunate.

Finally, this bill severely restricts my discretion as the Sheriff to secure my jails by stating I can only deny a tour or interview by proving they would pose an immediate and direct threat to the security of the institution or the physical safety of a member of the public, not considering any number of valid reasons I may need to deny or restrict access to my jails.

For these reasons, and many others, I respectfully oppose SB 254. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at _____, or my Legislative Advocate, Lieutenant Brandon Epp at _____

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Robert G. Luna in cursive script.

ROBERT G. LUNA
SHERIFF