

March 6, 2009

Honorable Bonnie Lowenthal, Member
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 5158
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1492 – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Lowenthal:

The Riverside Sheriffs' Association, which represents over 3,200 rank and file deputy sheriffs, sheriffs, deputy probation officers, law enforcement investigators and counselors, coroners and bailiffs – the entire law enforcement team of Riverside County - is pleased to co-sponsor and support your bill, AB 1492.

AB 1492 makes it a misdemeanor for a person to continue to use a cell phone (or other wireless device) during a traffic stop by a peace officer *after the officer has directed the person to stop using that device.*

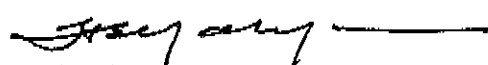
Traffic stops often take place on crowded streets and highways. It is good safety policy not to prolong the traffic stop with "incidentals," like personal calls. In some cases, the person stopped can be using a cell phone for more nefarious purposes, even to call gang members to the location of the traffic stop, possibly endangering the officer.

AB 1492 now gives the officer the authority to direct a person in a stopped vehicle to stop using the wireless device. The bill provides an exception for "emergency" calls made to a law enforcement agency, fire department, health care provider, or other emergency services agency or entity.

Thank you for introducing this bill. AB 1492 will better protect both our officers and the public.

Very truly yours,


Pat McNamara
President


Timothy H. B. Yaryan
Legislative Counsel and Advocate

cc: RSA

6215 RIVER CREST DR., SUITE A • RIVERSIDE, CA 92507
(951) 653-5152 • FAX (951) 653-1943 • (800) 655-4772