



July 16, 2009

Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor
State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 412 -- SIGN

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

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 in Riverside County - is pleased to support AB 412.

Existing law prohibits the display of a Nazi Swastika, burning a cross, and other symbols of racial or ethnic hatred if used with the intent to terrorize or intimidate others. AB 412 adds to this list of symbols, "hanging a noose," which is a well known symbol of lynching, if it is done for the purpose of terrorizing. The display of symbols of hatred, such as a "noose," when exhibited for the purpose of terrorizing, are well outside the protections of the First Amendment Right of Free Speech, and appropriately should be prohibited by law. Thank you for your consideration of this measure, and we ask that it be signed into law.

Very truly yours,

Pat McNamara
President

Timothy H. B. Yaryan
Legislative Counsel and Advocate

cc: RSA
Assemblymember Wilbur Amina Carter

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