



April 15, 2009

Honorable Norma Torres, Member
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 4164
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 576 – Support

Dear Assemblymember Torres:

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 - supports your bill, AB 576.

Existing law provides that every person who defaces real or personal property with graffiti or other inscribed materials, and damages or destroys any real or personal property not his or her own, is guilty of vandalism, and must make restitution for the act..

AB 576 maintains current law that a person convicted of vandalism be required to clean up, repair, or replace property they damage, if they have been granted probation for vandalism involving graffiti. Existing law only permits restitution to a direct victim of the crime, but AB 576 amends the Penal Code section to require the court, regarding any person who is convicted of vandalism consisting of defacing property with graffiti, to order the defendant or juvenile offender to pay reasonable costs incurred by any law enforcement agency in apprehending the defendant if the court finds that the defendant or juvenile offender has the ability to pay. Additionally, it expands the definition of victim to any governmental entity responsible for repairing or replacing or restoring public or privately owned property that has been defaced and has sustained an economic loss as a result of the graffiti violation. We believe this to be reasonable and support this change.

Very truly yours,

Pat McNamara

President

cc: RSA

Assembly Committee on Public Safety

Timothy H. B. Yaryan

Legislative Counsel and Advocate