



March 17, 2009

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

RE: AB 912 – Support

Dear Assemblymember Torres:

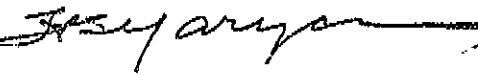
The Riverside Sheriffs' Association, which represents over 3,200 rank and file deputy sheriffs, sheriffs, deputy probation officers, law enforcement investigators and counselors, coroners and bailiffs – the entire law enforcement team in Riverside County - is pleased to support your bill AB 912.

The number "911" is the primary emergency telephone number of use in the state and there is a surcharge fee that is imposed annually to provide the revenues which is thought to be sufficient to fund the system. However, there are administration, operation, and maintenance costs that are appropriated by the Legislature for the emergency service. This measure will change and increase the percentage rate range to cover all these aspects of the system.

Regarding the use of the emergency '911" system, there has been a major increase in the number of calls over the last two years – an increase so large that the Department of the California Highway Patrol, according to your figures, receives approximately 750,000 "911" calls per month. And not to be missed is the fact that when emergency telephone calls are made, one may hear the response of a busy signal. Based on the problems confronted today by the system and potential funding necessary to meet the program's growth, we approve the incremental costs and future accommodations delineated in your legislation.

Very truly yours,

  
Pat McNamara  
President

  
Timothy H. B. Yaryan  
Legislative Counsel and Advocate