



June 3, 2009

Honorable Mark Leno, Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety
State Capitol, Room 2031
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 960 - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Leno:

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 960.

An individual whose employment and work safety is dependent on the ability to use body armor is free to do so, but there are exceptions to this rule. In the circumstance wherein the same person has been convicted of a violent felony, a petition must be filed with the chief of police or county sheriff of the jurisdiction in which he or she seeks to use body armor.

Whether or not the use of body armor is approved depends on findings that indicate if it is reasonable for a petitioner to use body armor in a lawful manner and if the petitioner has a reasonable need for the protection of armor. This is of particular importance in assessing potential recidivism for anyone who has a prior felony conviction of a violent nature. AB 960 sets forth for the chief of police or sheriff some conditions under which an exception can be granted, and additionally requires of the individual that he or she carry a certified copy of the exception, if it is granted. This structure should be helpful to law enforcement officials, parole, and probation officers.

Very truly yours,

Pat McNamara
President

cc: Assemblymember V. Manuel Perez
Senate Committee on Public Safety
RSA

Timothy H. B. Yaryan
Legislative Counsel and Advocate