



June 16, 2010

Honorable Tom Ammiano, Chair
Assembly Public Safety Committee
1020 N Street, Room 111
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 839 - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Ammiano:

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 co-sponsor and support SB 839.

The activation of California's Emergency Alert System is not to be taken lightly, nor have alerts become overwhelming in number, but since its introduction, the emergency alert system has greatly energized the search for perpetrators of select crimes and gained assistance from the general public in tracking down kidnap victims or lost individuals with mental or physical disabilities who have gone astray and need to be found for their own safety. Alerts go out to the public warning of serious situations that need instant attention, (abducted children need rescue etc.) These alerts benefit on-duty law enforcement when a giant "posse" of the general public – thousands of citizens- comes on board and join in a search with open eyes and ears as they travel our highways and back roads. They read the bold alert signs and listen to the emergency call on the radio or see it on television screens and silently deputize themselves. The general public shies away from immediate danger for themselves, but generally they want to help officers bring justice and save lives. If an officer goes down, suffers serious bodily injury, or is assaulted with a deadly weapon, they, too, will be protected by the addition of a "Blue Alert." Given the number of California "cop killings," this legislation is both needed and timely.

Thank you for your consideration of this measure.

Very truly yours,

Pat McNamara
President

Timothy H. B. Yaryan
Legislative Counsel and Advocate

cc: Consultants - Assembly Committee on Public Safety
Senator George Runner
RSA

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