

March 3, 2005

Honorable Gloria Romero, Member
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 313
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1015 – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Romero:

The Riverside Sheriffs' Association, which represents over 2,500 rank and file Deputy Sheriffs, Deputy Probation Officers, District Attorney Investigators, and Deputy Coroners - the entire law enforcement team in Riverside County - is pleased to support your bill, SB 1015.

The problem of police pursuit has certainly been a vexing one. While additional training and responsibility for peace officers and agencies is worthwhile, *unless the fleeing suspect is held accountable*, we will not be successful in reducing the incidence of police pursuits. SB 1015 increases civil and criminal sanctions on fleeing suspects, but also calls for public awareness education about penalties for fleeing from a police officer.

Among other things, SB 1015 incorporates the following points:

- Establishes minimum standards that every agency must address in their pursuit policy.
- Law enforcement agencies "shall" adopt and implement a pursuit policy that meets newly established state standards.
- Requires advanced and ongoing training of officers.
- Immunity for law enforcement agencies only applies if the agency develops and adopts a policy and trains their officers to that policy.
- Create strict liability for fleeing suspect if fleeing the peace officer causes any injuries or death to a third party.
- Recognizes a victim of a fleeing suspect as a crime victim. Makes victims eligible for monetary compensation from victim's fund.
- Increases penalties for a person that flees a peace officer.

6215 RIVER CREST DR., SUITE A • RIVERSIDE, CA 92507
(909) 653-5152 • FAX (909) 653-1943 • (800) 655-4772

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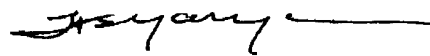
- Calls for public education, including a question on the DMV drivers test about penalties for fleeing a peace officer. The bill also promotes education campaigns about the risks and penalties associated with fleeing a peace officer.

We look forward to working with you and your staff as this legislation moves forward.

Very truly yours,



Pat McNamara
President



Timothy H. B. Yaryan
Legislative Counsel and Advocate

cc: RSA
Consultants, Members - Senate Public Safety Committee