

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

September 28, 2021

**Support for Senate Bill (SB) 2 – Kenneth Ross Jr. Police Decertification Act of 2021**

In response to numerous, tragic examples of law enforcement officers causing harm and death to largely Black, Latino/x, Indigenous, and other people of color, the California Legislature put forward multiple law enforcement accountability related bills—many of which the LA County Board of Supervisors (Board) voted to support<sup>1</sup>.

That same energy, focus, and momentum continued with the 2021 legislative session. Specifically, Senate Bill (SB) 2, SB 98, and Assembly Bill (AB) 958:

- SB 2<sup>2</sup> (Bradford) is a bill similar the one that the Board supported<sup>3</sup> last year, SB 731. This is a bill that would “prohibit a person who has been convicted of a felony...from regaining eligibility for peace officer employment”<sup>4</sup> ...and it would “eliminate certain immunity provisions for peace officers and custodial

<sup>1</sup> <http://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/148379.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=20210220SB2](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=20210220SB2)

<sup>3</sup> <http://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/148379.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

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officers, or public entities employing peace officers or custodial officers sued under the [Tom Bane Civil Rights Act].”<sup>5</sup> Additionally, it would “create the Peace Officer Standards Accountability Division...to review investigations conducted by law enforcement agencies and to conduct additional investigations into serious misconduct that may provide grounds for suspension or revocation of a peace officer’s certification...”<sup>6</sup>

- SB 98<sup>7</sup> (McGuire) is a bill that the Board supported<sup>8</sup> after providing an amendment that strengthened language to support members of the media. This bill would, “if peace officers close the immediate area...at a demonstration, march, protest, or rally where individuals are engaged primarily in constitutionally protected activity...require that a duly authorized representative of any news service, online news service, newspaper, or radio or television station or network...be allowed to enter those closed areas and would prohibit a peace officer or other law enforcement officer from intentionally assaulting, interfering with, or obstructing a duly authorized representative who is gathering, receiving, or processing information for communication to the public.”<sup>9</sup>
- SB 958<sup>10</sup> (Gipson) is a bill that the Board supported<sup>11</sup> after providing an amendment that strengthened the definition of law enforcement gangs. This

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<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202120220SB98](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220SB98)

<sup>8</sup> <http://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/159006.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202120220SB98](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220SB98)

<sup>10</sup> [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202120220AB958](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB958)

<sup>11</sup> <http://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/159437.pdf>

bill would define a law enforcement gang as a group of law enforcement officers within an agency that engages in a pattern of specified unlawful or unethical on-duty behavior, and would require law enforcement agencies to have a policy prohibiting law enforcement gangs and making participation...in a law enforcement gang grounds for termination. The bill would require an agency to disclose an officer's termination for involvement in a law enforcement gang to another law enforcement agency conducting a preemployment background investigation of that officer..."<sup>12</sup>

As of September 21, 2021, these three bills have made it out of both houses and are now sitting on Governor Newsom's desk for signature.

These bills have vast support from justice partner associations, social advocacy groups, and other relevant stakeholders to continue their sustained support for major reforms to hold law enforcement accountable to misconduct, harms and trauma they cause in the community they work and serve.

Given the Board's position on SB 98 and AB 958, the County's Legislative Office are sending a letter to Governor Newsom, urging him to sign the two bills.

Last year, the Board supported SB 731 and should continue to commit to ensure that law enforcement officers are held accountable.

Peace officers are given an overwhelming amount of discretion to exact force against residents, including deadly uses of force. When that responsibility is misused and misappropriated, it is incumbent upon leaders and other community stakeholders to demand accountability. Support for legislative changes is one way

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<sup>12</sup> [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202120220AB958](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB958)

of protecting families and other vulnerable residents from law enforcement misconduct.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors direct the County's Sacramento Legislative Advocates to send a letter to Governor Gavin Newsom urging him to sign SB 2.

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