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LAW ENFORCEMENT LEADERS REMAIN OPPOSED TO SB 54
California Peace Officers' Association Expresses Concern over Lingering Impacts

Sacramento, CA- The California Peace Officers' Association (CPOA) continues to oppose SB 54 by Senate President Pro Tem Kevin de León, despite the latest amendments. CPOA, which represents the totality of the law enforcement profession within its membership, is concerned that this is another measure that would adversely impact public safety.

“While we are appreciative of the considerations that Governor Brown and Pro Tem de León have given to law enforcement, SB 54 still does not go far enough to ensure public safety,” said current President of CPOA, Beverly Hills Police Department Assistant Chief Marc Coopwood. “The concerns we have expressed to both offices since the bill’s introduction regarding communications restrictions on locals still remain.”

Among the concerns is that SB 54 still prohibits cooperation with ICE officials, when they request information, on offenders who have committed serious crimes that were reduced from felonies to misdemeanors by Prop 47 in 2014. These offenses continue to be the most commonly occurring since the measure’s passage. Cutting off communications of any kind, but particularly regarding these offenders, remains a serious concern for CPOA.

Additionally, the mandates on local agencies to annually report all joint taskforce operations is a burdensome directive. The bill requires reporting on non-immigration task forces where locals work with federal partners, and for some agencies this means a dozen or more operations on issues relating to human and firearm trafficking, gang suppression, and crisis response.

“Despite how Senator de León has presented the issue, the law enforcement profession, which CPOA represents, cannot and does not engage in immigration enforcement. We do, however, have a sworn duty to protect our communities from the release of potentially dangerous criminals, wherever they may come from,” Coopwood noted. “Any attempt to restrict our ability to do that is not good policy.”

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With over 26,000 members, the California Peace Officers' Association represents the entire spectrum of peace officers from all ranks and agencies in California. Committed to enabling law enforcement delivery of exceptional service to California, its mission is to provide a focused resource for leadership development, personal growth and advocacy to ensure the safety of our communities.