

COMMISSION ON  
**PEACE OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING**



**EDMUND G. BROWN JR.**  
GOVERNOR

**KAMALA D. HARRIS**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

March 26, 2015

Chief Larry Esquivel  
San Jose Police Department  
201 W. Mission Street  
San Jose, CA 95110

Dear Chief Esquivel,

On behalf of the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST), and POST staff, please accept our deepest sympathy and condolences upon the untimely and tragic on-duty death of Officer Michael Johnson.

All who have ever worn the badge feel your loss. Our communities share your pain. Ultimately, society feels the tremor of the tragic death of one who commits their life to holding the thin line between peace and chaos, for standing for something good.

I never met Michael Johnson. I do not know his story, or the adventures he lived.

What I do know about each fallen officer is what they did. I know that they stood the line between right and wrong, darkness and light. They faced challenges and danger. They fought those that oppress and provided strength for the meek. They gave order to chaos, and hope to despair. Comfort to grief and a smile to the lost. Too frequently they tried in vain to fix the broken. They were quick to defend and frequently chose action over caution. I know that they viewed the world with crystal clear eyes that sparkled with life and thought no mountain too tall, no canyon too wide. They stood hard against the wind.

What I do know is what they stood for. They railed against injustice. Their cause is as old as the heavens. I know in loyalty they faced conflict shoulder-to-shoulder with their brothers and sisters and, proudly committed to being a small part of a greater cause. They represented hope to some, fear to the unjust, and would give their last breath doing either. They knew the word "sacrifice".

What I do know is that they will never finish their dreams or be part of dreams of others. Their absence will forever be a void in the lives that they touched.

We commend Michael to the hands of God and commit ourselves to the eternal memory and honor of his life. Michael will be remembered with a moment of silence at the beginning of the June 25, 2015 POST Commission meeting in Universal City.

Sincerely,

**ROBERT A. STRESAK**  
Executive Director

RAS:cap



# California **POLICE CHIEFS** Association Inc.

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March 20, 2015

Sandra Hutchens, Chair  
Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training  
860 Stillwater Road, Suite 100  
West Sacramento, CA 95605

Dear Commissioner Hutchens:

On behalf of the California Police Chiefs Association I would like to nominate Selma Police Chief Greg Garner for appointment to the POST Advisory Committee, replacing new Vallejo Police Chief Andrew Bidou who recently stepped down.

Chief Garner is an active member of Cal Chiefs and is passionate about the training of police officers. He has over 30 years of experience in law enforcement, has served as an instructor in the Basic POST Academy for 10 years, commanded the Fresno Police Department Training Bureau for three years and is currently an instructor/facilitator in "Tools for Tolerance" law enforcement training program at the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles. I am confident he will be an asset to POST as a member of the Advisory Committee.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

David Bejarano  
President



# *California Association of Administration of Justice Educators*

*Professor Michael Grabowski, President*  
Santa Rosa Jr. College

May 4, 2015

Bob Stresak  
Executive Director  
Commission on Peace Officer  
Standards and training  
860 Stillwater Road, Suite 100  
West Sacramento, CA 95605

Ref: Appointment to Advisory Committee

Dear Mr. Stresak:

On behalf of the Board of Directors and general membership for the California Association of Administration of Justice Educators (CAAJE), I request that Mr. Bradley J. Young be re-appointed to the Advisory Committee to represent CAAJE for the next three-year period. Mr. Young is a past president of CAAJE and has been representing our organization for over 25 years on various state-wide committees. Mr. Young is the Chairman for the Social/Behavioral Sciences and PACE division at Los Angeles Harbor College.

I would appreciate it if you would forward my request to the President of the POST Commission for consideration of Mr. Young's re-appointment.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to phone or email me at anytime.

Sincerely yours,

Michael Grabowski  
707-303-5594  
majrld@hotmail.com  
mgrabowski@santarosa.edu

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Michael R. Reid, Associate Professor  
1111 S. Figueroa Place, Wilmington, CA 90744 310-233-4068; Business Manager

**DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL**

P.O. Box 942898  
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(800) 735-2929 (TT/TDD)  
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May 18, 2015

File No.: 001.09486.12324.003.POSTAdvisoryComm

Ms. Sandra Hutchens, Chair  
Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training  
860 Stillwater Road, Suite 100  
West Sacramento, CA 95605-1630

Dear Ms. Hutchens:

In accordance with the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Advisory Committee by-laws, Captain Chuck King's membership term expired February 2015.

I am nominating Chief Mark Brunet for the next term on the POST Advisory Committee. As commander of the California Highway Patrol (CHP) Personnel and Training Division, with oversight for the academy, he will represent the best interests of the CHP and provide an executive level perspective to the California law enforcement community while serving in this capacity.

I understand because the three-year term has expired, the Department will not have a representative participate as a member of the Advisory Committee until the Commission acts on the nomination at its June 2015 meeting. Should Chief Brunet's nomination be accepted to the Advisory Committee, he will be in attendance at the next scheduled meeting in October 2015.

Please direct any questions regarding this matter to Chief Brunet at (916) -843-3030.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J. A. Farrow".

J. A. FARROW  
Commissioner





CENTER FOR ADVOCACY & POLICY

Telephone: (916) 442-1036

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March 23, 2015

The Honorable Loni Hancock, Chair  
Senate Committee on Budget, Subcommittee No. 5  
California State Capitol  
Sacramento, California 95814

**Re: Proposed Budget Reduction for POST**

Dear Chairman Hancock:

The ACLU of California is opposed to the proposed funding cuts for the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) contained in the Governor's 2015-2016 budget. The proposed \$5.3 million cuts would require elimination of 37 positions at POST, amounting to a 30% staffing reduction. The ACLU believes that establishing and administering statewide standards for peace officer training is vitally important and that the ability of the state to provide such training should be expanded and not reduced.

The motivation for these cuts is a budget shortfall in the State Penalty Fund, which derives its funds from the penalty assessments paid by persons convicted of crimes. The ACLU believes that providing state standards for peace officer training is a core government function that should not be increased or decreased annually based on the amount of revenue collected in penalty assessments, which will inevitably vary from year to year. Therefore, to put it on a more sound and reliable footing, we urge that POST receive its funding from the general fund.

Providing adequate and appropriate training to peace officers is essential to protecting civil liberties and we urge the Legislature to exercise appropriate oversight over the type and amount of training peace officers receive to ensure that protection of civil liberties is adequately emphasized. We believe the proposed cuts to POST would undermine the ability of the state to raise the level of training provided to officers and ability of the Legislature to provide oversight regarding that training. For these reasons we oppose the proposed cuts and urge POST to be funded from the general fund.

Respectfully,

Natasha Minsker  
Director  
ACLU of California  
Center for Advocacy and Policy

Steven Meinrath  
Advocate  
ACLU of California  
Center for Advocacy and Policy

cc: Members, Senate Committee on Budget, Subcommittee No. 5

**ACLU OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA**

Abdi Solani, Executive Director  
39 Drumm Street  
San Francisco, CA 94111  
(415) 621-7493

**ACLU OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

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**ACLU OF SAN DIEGO & IMPERIAL COUNTIES**

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# California State Sheriffs' Association

*Organization Founded by the Sheriffs in 1894*

January 26, 2015

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol, First Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## Re: Governor's Proposed 2015-16 State Budget

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of the California State Sheriffs' Association (CSSA), we commend you for proposing a budget that invests in public safety while addressing long-term state liabilities and paying down debt, especially as it relates to local governments.

We appreciate that your budget plan recognizes California's ongoing economic recovery and makes plans to soften the harsh swings of the boom and bust cycles of our volatile economy. As this year's budget process moves forward, Sheriffs will engage on a number of issues, but for the purposes of this letter, we want to highlight a few particular issues of note including Realignment funding, inmate health care, defendants found incompetent to stand trial, court security funding, repayment of mandate debt, and peace officer training.

## Realignment

Your budget notes that billions of dollars (including several hundred millions of dollars of growth funding) are projected to be allocated for local governments to continue to implement Public Safety Realignment. While criminal justice experiences in counties around the state relative to Realignment have varied, the one universal truth is that adequate funding must be available to reduce recidivism and keep our communities safe. The projected growth in the AB 109, Law Enforcement, and Trial Court Security subaccounts is substantial, and will help sheriffs and our justice partners continue to work toward the goals of less crime, more treatment, and safer neighborhoods.

## Inmate Health Care

As local correctional facilities continue to manage the challenges associated with housing and rehabilitating long-term offenders, the importance of maintaining the health and mental health of inmates has grown significantly. Counties report a wide spectrum of difficult issues surrounding the provision of acute care and mental health treatment, and perhaps chief among them is the rising cost of pharmaceuticals.

We are pleased to see the budget recognizes this issue by including \$300 million to begin to address the high-cost treatment regimen for Hepatitis C. While the money is not solely reserved for correctional applications, the problem is particularly acute in that setting. We also appreciate your plan to convene a workgroup, including sheriffs, to address the state's approach regarding high-cost drug utilization policies. We feel strongly that this discrete proposal represents an opportunity to continue a broader conversation on high custodial pharmacy expenses as well as other increased costs related to the provision of health and mental health care to county inmates. In addition to Hepatitis C, chronic conditions such as cancer, HIV/AIDS, diabetes, and kidney disease are presenting new and expensive challenges to providers of correctional health care. Simply put, this is

a human being issue. Sheriffs recognize the need to properly address the health needs of inmates in their care and custody, who eventually will return to our communities. We look forward to working on this matter and helping it serve as a springboard to a more comprehensive examination of the provision of inmate health care services generally.

### **Incompetent to Stand Trial**

Despite implementing measures to mitigate the backlog of persons awaiting transport to the Department of State Hospitals (DSH) for treatment because they have been found incompetent to stand trial (IST), there are approximately 400 patients waiting to be admitted to DSH. We applaud your proposals to add additional capacity at the state hospitals as well as to explore options to otherwise treat IST defendants through partnerships with local governments and the private sector.

### **Court Security Funding**

As new courthouses continue to open, the chasm between security needs and available funding has grown. We are grateful that you continue to address this problem by proposing to provide \$2 million to address unmet court security needs created by the opening of new and larger courthouses. Additionally, removing the \$100,000 per position cap on this funding will provide much-needed flexibility to courts and counties as they work to secure our judicial facilities.

### **Reimbursement of Mandate Debt**

Building on your commitment to pay down crippling state debt, we are pleased to see that the trigger mechanism created by the 2014-15 budget has resulted in a projected disbursement of \$533 million to local governments for unpaid pre-2004 mandate debt. We know this number is subject to change, but this payment will be a tremendous help to counties, especially as they seek to ensure appropriate funding for crucial needs, including Realignment.

### **Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training**

As the fiscal woes associated with the Peace Officers' Training Fund and Corrections Training Fund continue, we understand the Administration's concern and attention to problems identified with the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST). We stand ready to assist the Administration in addressing those issues while ensuring that the resulting peace officer training, long the gold standard in law enforcement circles, does not suffer.

In closing, we feel this budget provides a path toward protecting public safety while prudently addressing long-term needs and liabilities. We look forward to continuing to work with you, your Administration, and the Legislature toward adopting a state budget that meets those goals.

Sincerely,



Adam E. Christianson, CSSA President  
Sheriff, Stanislaus County



Robert T. Doyle, CSSA Legislative Committee Chair  
Sheriff, Marin County

AEC/RTD/cms

cc: All Members of the California State Legislature  
Nancy McFadden, Executive Secretary – Office of the Governor  
June Clark, Deputy Legislative Affairs Secretary – Office of the Governor  
Diane Cummins, Special Advisor to the Governor – Department of Finance  
All California Sheriffs  
Carmen Green, CSSA Chief Operations Officer  
Nick Warner, CSSA Policy Director  
Cory Salzillo, CSSA Legislative Director  
Aaron Maguire, CSSA Legislative Counsel/Representative



January 28, 2015

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.  
Governor of California  
State Capitol, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Opposition to \$5.3 million reduction in POST Funding**

Dear Governor Brown,

The California Peace Officers' Association (CPOA) is writing you to express our concern for reduction in the Peace Officers' Training Fund (POTF).

No tax dollars are used to fund the POST Program, therefore a \$5.3 million reduction in budget will directly correlate to cuts in POST professional staff and a decrease to the reimbursement for training and support needed by law enforcement. It is worth noting that in the past several years the legislature has continued to mandate further law enforcement training, but has not responded with the necessary budget to ensure compliance. Additionally, a decrease in agency funding exacerbates the problem of the declining number of citations being written today as a result of fewer officers on the streets. The State Penalty Assessment Fund, therefore desperately needs to be supplemented by general fund dollars in the immediate, and a better long-term funding strategy for the future.

Other factors affecting the revenue stream for POST include:

- Court funding cuts have omitted many docket items, including citation cases, resulting in fewer dollars directed to the fund since cases are seen.
- Consequently, when courts do hear citation cases penalty discounts are often provided to the defendants, or cases are dismissed altogether. This also results in fewer fund dollars.

If agency and court staffing levels remain at this new normal (which we suspect) then POST will never be able to collect the necessary funding necessary to ensure that California's law enforcement profession remains appropriately trained. There must be a new strategy to ensure that the agency charged with training standards for California law enforcement is able to perform the function it was created for.

Prior to your May budget revise, we ask that as you enter the conference phase of the budget process you approve an augmentation of POTF funding so that law enforcement agencies continue to receive the much needed training that POST provides. In the meantime, we will work diligently with the legislature, POST, the LAO and the Department of Finance to discuss appropriate fixes to prevent future budget shortfalls.

We thank you and your staff for continuing to recognize the important of POST funding for law enforcement.

Cordially,

Mark Yokoyama, CPOA President  
Chief of Police, City of Alhambra





STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

KAMALA D. HARRIS  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

April 10, 2015

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown Jr.  
Governor of California  
State Capitol Building  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown:

In the wake of the controversial deaths in North Charleston, Ferguson, New York City, and Sanford, a national discussion has renewed on how best to meet the challenges facing law enforcement and the communities they are sworn to protect. As Attorney General, I have convened state and local law enforcement leaders from throughout California to develop best practices for interacting with the mentally ill, building relationships of trust with the communities they serve, acknowledging and eliminating the problem of implicit bias, and providing analytical research on effective policing in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

In each and every conversation I have with these leaders, the discussion turns to the need for high quality, accessible training to equip law enforcement with the knowledge and skills necessary to meet the challenges of today. Investing in the training of our officers is a smart investment and I hope you will reconsider the proposed \$5.3 million cut to the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training's budget.

I am informed this proposed cut would result in a 30 percent reduction in POST staff at a time when there is increased demand for high quality law enforcement training on a wide array of complex topics. POST also would be forced to eliminate essential training services and significantly scale back its courses for California's law enforcement community.

Just like every other state program, POST has not been criticized over the years. However, based on my personal experience with its leadership over the last several months, I firmly believe this proposed budget reduction comes at a particularly bad time. Specifically,

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown Jr.

April 10, 2015

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POST has enthusiastically responded to my request that we develop a world-class, statewide training course for law enforcement on implicit bias. This course will be built through collaboration between POST, my office, and Stanford University, which has done groundbreaking work in the area. This is precisely the type of training we need in California to help state and local law enforcement rebuild trust with the communities they are sworn to protect and serve.

Now more than ever, it is critical that our public safety training efforts be increased, rather than reduced, to meet the public safety needs of our communities. I urge you to reconsider your proposed budget cut to POST in order to ensure that California's law enforcement community continues to receive high quality, accessible public safety training necessary to protect the public.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kamala D. Harris", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

KAMALA D. HARRIS  
Attorney General