



## SHERIFF'S EMPLOYEES' BENEFIT ASSOCIATION

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REPRESENTING PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

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June 2, 2021

The Honorable Joyce Dudley, Chair  
Commission on Police Officers Standards and Training  
860 Stillwater Road, Suite 100  
West Sacramento, CA 95605

**RE: Changes to minimum training requirements for District Attorney Investigators**

Dear Chair Dudley:

The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Employees Benefit Association (SEBA) represents the fifty-seven sworn (830.1 PC) Investigators of the San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office, Bureau of Investigation, each of whom have a wealth of knowledge and an average of over twenty years law enforcement experience. As President of SEBA, I am writing to lodge my objection to changing the minimum training requirements for District Attorney Investigators and ask for a delay in moving forward with this item which is scheduled for a vote at today's POST Commission meeting.

At a time when law enforcement is enduring intense public scrutiny and public demand for more comprehensive training of peace officers at the forefront of reform efforts, lowering the training standards for District Attorney Investigators is an unnecessary mistake.

The staff report for this agenda item merely reflects the differences between the Specialized Investigators' Basic Course (SIBC) and the Regular Basic Course (RBC) in an analysis of learning domains and scenario tests. What is not factored into the analysis is the additional field experience an 830.1 P.C. officer must complete in order to qualify for their Basic Certificate. The knowledge and experience these officers gain handling service calls from cold reports to in-progress crimes, often under extreme stress, must not be discounted. Their extensive experience investigating a wide variety of crimes as well as dealing with a diverse population of victims, witnesses, and criminals is what makes our investigators so critical to the successful pursuit of justice for all.

This stated opposition is not intended in any way to diminish the fine work of graduates of the SIBC or to demean them, but the experience difference between the two groups is immense and must not be ignored.

I understand this item is listed on today's POST Commission meeting agenda and I would recommend that this decision be delayed until it can fully be vetted. In February 2012, this same item was presented to the POST Commission and the concept was determined to be unworkable. I would like to know what has changed. I am not confident all the necessary factors have been considered in the research which

has been conducted to support this change in training standards. I would like the opportunity for SEBA to have a voice in further discussions as it directly impacts the working conditions of the District Attorney Investigators SEBA represents.

If you have questions or would like to discuss my concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Grant Ward', with a stylized, cursive script.

Grant Ward, President

San Bernardino County Sheriff's Employee Benefits Association