



Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

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July 6, 2021

The Honorable Joyce Dudley, Chair
Mr. Manuel Alvarez Jr., Executive Director
Commission on Police Officer Standards and Training
860 Stillwater Road Suite 100
West Sacramento, CA 95605

Dear Chair Dudley and Mr. Alvarez,

The Stanislaus County District Attorney's Office (SCDA) has great respect for the Commission, its leadership, and its efforts. However, I must inform you of my objection to the recent vote to lower the qualifying standards for those desiring to be District Attorney Investigators.

District Attorney Investigators (DAI), within the meaning of Penal Code § 830.1, are peace officers (generalists) who possess a Regular Basic Course (RBC) certificate and are able to investigate any law violation within the state. Peace officers who have attended the Specialized Investigator Basic Course (SIBC) are limited to specific job functions, limited to specific investigations, and have less training and job-related skills.

It is concerning to me that the Commission would consider research, and more importantly, take action to alter the qualifications of the DAI without consulting or seeking input from our District Attorneys and Chief Investigators. The legislation provides for the Commission to research job-related educational standards. However, the same legislation requires the Commission to consult with local entities during the related research (PC § 13510).

It is my recommendation that the Commission and the Office of Administrative Law reject this proposed action to lower the standards by allowing those without an RBC to be employed as a DAI.

Respectfully,

Terry Seese
Chief Criminal Investigator
Stanislaus District Attorney's Office

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