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From: John Ehrk [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, August 6, 2021 11:08 AM
To: Bunch, Kirk@POST [REDACTED]
Subject: YOLO DA

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Manuel Alvarez; Executive Director
California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training
RE: Feb 24, 2021 POST Commission Meeting; District Attorney Investigator qualifications

Executive Director Alvarez,

The Yolo County District Attorney's Office (YCDA) is a POST compliant office and recognizes the contributions POST has made to the training and leadership of California's police officers. The training, planning and execution of statewide mandates, trainings and programs designed to enhance professionalism are second to none. However, this letter is to address my office's concerns to the recent vote to lower the qualifying standards for those seeking employment as District Attorney Investigators (DAI's).

DAI's were a byproduct of Yolo V. Joyce a case in 1909 that was one decision to employ Peace Officer's for the role of trial preparation. Many DA's Offices have the luxury of recruiting some of the best peace officer's California has to offer with a myriad of background and experiences that are unique to Sheriffs and Police departments. This is one reason DAI's have maintained their PC 830.1 status. The skill sets a DAI brings are broad, and critical to the overall mission of the District Attorney. Besides knowledge of police work, they come with the experience of working with a state prosecution team, knowledge of case law and court room behavior critical to the successful mediation of a case. This also includes a DAI's ability to look at certain cases through the lens of a patrol officer or detective. DAI's are inherent fact finders, bound by the same ethical standards of attorney's.

By lowering the qualifications that does not have street experience significantly impacts the ability of the employee and significantly causes an unnecessary amount of liability to the hiring agency if this

proposed action takes effect. On its face this appears to be counterintuitive for POST to endorse. For the sake of brevity, I will limit further comments as to why I am not in favor of this option, but there are many more reasons.

Thank you.

John Ehrk
Chief Investigator
Yolo County District Attorney

