



CITY OF LA VERNE CITY HALL

3660 "D" Street, La Verne, California 91750-3599
www.cityoflaverne.org

May 1, 2024

Assembly Appropriations Committee
1020 O Street, Room 8220
Sacramento, CA 95814

Submitted via the Legislative Position Letter Portal

RE: Support to Assembly Bill 1839 (AB 1839) Peace Officers: education and hiring grants.

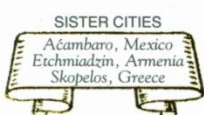
Dear Honorable Assembly Appropriations Committee Members:

I am writing on behalf of the City of La Verne to express my strong support for Assembly Bill 1839 (AB 1839), which addresses critical gaps in law enforcement training and recruitment, and to share the pressing challenges that local municipalities face in maintaining adequate staffing levels. Municipalities currently face difficulties in sustaining a workforce capable of upholding safety and public trust due to a variety of stressors impacting personnel.

AB 1839 proposes the creation of the Law Enforcement Officer Grant Program, offering up to \$6,000 annually to candidates pursuing modern policing degrees at California community colleges. This initiative is vital, as it encourages a commitment to a four-year service in law enforcement, thus providing a steady influx of qualified officers ready to serve and enhance public safety.

Moreover, the bill supports a strategic outreach effort to inform high school students, especially those from historically underserved communities, about careers in law enforcement. By fostering a diverse and committed workforce from an early stage, we can better meet the needs of our diverse population and build a more inclusive police force.

Local agencies often face significant challenges in recruiting and retaining staff due to competitive job markets and the demanding nature of law enforcement roles. The provisions for hiring bonuses, as outlined in AB 1839, are particularly crucial. Administered by the Board of State and Community Corrections, these bonuses would help local agencies that are significantly understaffed, providing a much-needed boost to attract and retain personnel.

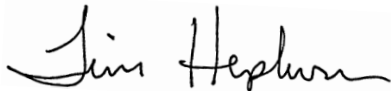


The holistic approach of AB 1839, which encompasses recruitment, education, and retention strategies, is essential for addressing the current staffing shortages that undermine public safety. The bill not only aligns with existing laws that uphold high standards in police services but also addresses the urgent need to invest in our law enforcement personnel to maintain safety and effectiveness.

I urge your support for AB 1839 and the necessary appropriations for its successful implementation. Investing in our law enforcement personnel is imperative for the safety and well-being of all Californians, and this bill represents a significant step forward in achieving that goal.

Thank you for considering the position of the City of La Verne on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Hepburn". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T" and "H".

Tim Hepburn
Mayor

C: City Council
Ken Domer, City Manager
Sam Gonzalez, Chief of Police