

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HILDA L. SOLIS

July 13, 2021

AND HOLLY J. MITCHELL

Assembly Bill 958 (Gipson): Supporting the Prohibition Against Law

Enforcement Gangs

On June 22, 2021, the LA County Board of Supervisors (Board) unanimously supported a motion, "Assembly Bill 958 (Gipson): Opposing Law Enforcement Cliques and Gangs¹" that opposed Assembly Bill (AB) 958 unless the amendments the Board proposed were accepted.

As shared in the initial motion, though the intent of the bill's author, Assemblymember Gipson, was admirable, there were significant deficiencies that limited the prohibition on law enforcement cliques to circumstances in which there is misconduct separate and apart from membership and the definition of "law enforcement cliques" did not fully encompass all subgroups of concern. The Board also found that it

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http://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/159437.pdf?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=

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was equally important that a law enforcement agency cooperate in any investigations into deputy cliques and gangs by an inspector general, the attorney general, or any other authorized agency.

This led to providing, through the County's Sacramento Legislative Advocates, several amendments to align the bill more to its intent to prohibit law enforcement gangs and behavior:

- 13670 Section 2 (a): "Law enforcement clique" means a group of peace officers within a law enforcement agency that may identify themselves by a name and may be associated with an identifying symbol, including, but not limited to matching tattoos, who engage in a pattern of rogue on-duty behavior that intentionally violates the law or fundamental principles of professional policing, including, but not limited to, excluding, harassing, or discriminating against any individual based on any protected category under federal and state antidiscrimination laws, and engaging in or promoting conduct that violates the rights of other employees or members of the public, violating agency policy, the persistent practice of unlawful detention or use of excessive force in circumstances where it is known to be unjustified, falsifying police reports, fabricating or destroying evidence, targeting persons for enforcement based solely on protected characteristics of those persons, theft, unauthorized use of alcohol or drugs on duty, unlawful or unauthorized protection of other members from disciplinary actions, and retaliation against other officers who threaten or interfere with the activities of the group.

- 13670 Section 2 (b) revise to read: Each law enforcement agency shall maintain a policy that prohibits participation in a law enforcement clique, and that makes violation of that policy grounds for termination. A law enforcement agency shall cooperate in any investigation into such groups by an inspector general, the attorney general, or any other authorized agency. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, local agencies may impose greater restrictions on membership and participation in law enforcement cliques, including for discipline and termination purposes.

As a result of the Board’s advocacy, Assemblymember Gipson, author of the bill, and the Chair of the Public Safety Committee, Senator Bradford, accepted the amendments, including changing references to the term “cliques” to “gangs”. The County thanks Assemblymember Gipson and Senator Bradford for their partnership on the language and leadership on this important matter.

The County stands by our elected state leaders like Assemblymember Gipson who states that AB 958 would “mean officers who are found to be members of such gangs would be fired. ‘It is mind boggling we’re doing this in 2021, but we have to because it still exists in our communities.”

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Los Angeles County’s Sacramento Advocates to support Assembly Bill 958, as amended on July 8, 2021.

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