

Governor Gavin Newsom
1021 O St., Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for AB 847 (Sharp-Collins) – Law Enforcement Oversight Commissions

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the County of San Diego, I am writing in support of Assembly Bill 847 (Sharp-Collins) which provide to Law Enforcement Oversight Commissions the same access to confidential officer personnel files that is currently provided to Attorneys General, District Attorneys, and Grand Juries.

The County of San Diego Citizens Law Enforcement Review Board (CLERB) has rarely, if ever, recommended imposition of discipline in response to a citizen complaint against San Diego County Sheriff's deputies due to the fact that CLERB has never had access to officer personnel files, which would provide guidance on the processes and discipline imposed by the Sheriff.

The State legislature has granted counties the authority to establish civilian oversight commissions to oversee sheriff's departments. The State even gave these commissions the ability to issue subpoenas when deemed necessary to investigate matters within their jurisdiction. While many counties have created these commissions, they are not able to perform meaningful oversight of law enforcement without access to confidential information.

Only with the same access to confidential information as other oversight bodies, will Law Enforcement Oversight Commissions be able to provide the increased transparency into the policies and practices of police and sheriff departments that the public was promised with their creation. This bill is critical to assure the public that law enforcement leaders and officers are held accountable for misconduct including insuring personnel are timely and appropriately investigated and, where warranted, disciplined.

For these reasons, the County of San Diego respectfully urges your signature for AB 847.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

cc: Assemblymember Dr. LaShae Sharp-Collins, Assembly District 79