August 27, 2020

Honorable Gavin Newsom  
1303 10th St., Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Toni G. Atkins  
1303 10th St.,  
Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Anthony Rendon  
State Capitol  
Room 219  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE:  Request for a Special Legislative Session on Policing in California to Enact a Fair Decertification Process for California Peace Officers That Ensures Accountability, Due Process and a Reasonable Appeals Process Prior to Potentially Ending a Peace Officer’s Career

Dear Governor Newsom, Senate President pro Tempore Atkins and Assembly Speaker Rendon,

We represent thousands of California Peace Officers and hereby pledge our cooperation to work collaboratively and swiftly with willing parties to ensure California enacts a fair decertification process for peace officers during a special policing in California legislative session to be called that will ensure a singular focus the extremely important issue we collectively must confront.

We support the creation of a national database of officers fired for gross misconduct so that they are unable to move to other jurisdictions and continue a career in public safety.

We support the adoption of specific violations that constitute gross misconduct where a potential decertification process could commence.

We support working with all stakeholders to ensure a fair peace officer decertification process that codifies fundamental and appropriate due process for accused officers and a fair and reasonable appeals process similar to other professions in California.
We support the creation of an independent decertification panel that is comprised of individuals who are able to objectively evaluate the evidence and circumstances of each case brought before the panel.

Our unions have repeatedly worked toward enacting policies, procedures, protocols and laws that work to improve police and community outcomes. We encourage all California elected officials to log onto www.InvestInPolicing.com to learn more about our proposals and our commitment to working collaboratively to improve policing in California.

If we want to improve a police accountability system that earns the public’s trust and is fair to California’s peace officers, we must work collaboratively and ensure it is done right. We urge each of you to intervene in the current legislative process to stop the rush toward enacting SB 731 into law. This late-session bill is rife with negative consequences for peace officers, the government agencies that have law enforcement departments and the communities we serve.

We sincerely pledge, as with California’s landmark use-of-force law from last session, to work toward enactment of a fair, reasonable and workable decertification bill. SB 731, as it is written now, is not that bill. We urge you to create the forum to ensure a collaborative and deliberative process that results in a fair, reasonable and workable law by calling a special legislative session on policing in California.

Sincerely,

Craig Lally, President
Los Angeles Police Protective League
213-251-4554

Tony Montoya
San Francisco Police Officers Association
415-861-5060