



CaliforniaCivilLiberties.org

California Civil Liberties Advocacy
1242 Bridge Street, #65
Yuba City, CA 95991
(916) 741-2560

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To the Office of Assemblymember Ting:

The California Civil Liberties Advocacy (CCLA) **SUPPORTS** Assembly Bill - 748. The motive is clear and necessary. In 2004, California has decided to pave the way for a transparent government because it promotes trust and cooperation within the community (and other reasons, of course). This bill has the goal of improving the transparency of how the public can access police records of incidents. The CCLA believes all parties will gain from this.

The public will gain because it gives a greater capacity to address its concerns. Because police incidents have been in high profile lately, it gives the capacity for concerned members of the public the opportunity to ease their minds or to see that a “bad egg” has justice served upon them, which betters the reputation of peace officers as well as certifies greater public ease with the police. This also allows the public to come closer to a goal that helps peace officers in their role as community guardians.

The peace officers of the state have a great interest in gaining the trust of local communities. When the peace officers work with a community and its support, it not only makes their jobs easier but also provides for safer neighborhoods. Trying to collect testimonial evidence for a case is near impossible if the community doesn't trust you or your interests enough to work with you towards a mutual gain. It is similar to how crime goes up when illegal immigrants feel that they cannot report to the police without consequences.

How do the peace officers gain the trust with the passing of such a bill? This bill is like a promise to the public from Peace Officers that say the public's concern has been heard and is being addressed. That tiny message alone can do wonders to ease people's minds. It won't bridge the gap entirely, but it is a start. It is a start to a California wherein the officers that protect it work well with the communities around them to improve policing, to create trust and cooperation, and to allow the public to see the standard of its peace officers is not degrading, but raising with each passing year. For these reasons, the California Civil Liberties Advocacy supports Assembly Bill 748.

Respectfully,

Nicholas Gonzales
Legislative Advocate for CCLA
(916) 741-2560
n.gonzales@caliberty.net

Cc: Public Safety

*“Indifference to personal liberty is but the precursor of the state's hostility to it.”
— Justice Kennedy, U.S. Supreme Court*