

CITY OF SUNNYVALE

The Heart of Silicon Valley™

456 WEST OLIVE AVENUE SUNNYVALE, CALIFORNIA 94086 (408) 730-7400

September 12, 2007

RECEIVED
SEP 13 2007

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor, State of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Otto Lee
Mayor

Anthony Clonay Spalden
Councilmember

John N. Howe
Councilmember

David F. Chu
Councilmember

Ron Swagles
Councilmember

Michelle Hamilton
Councilmember

Christopher R. Moylan
Councilmember

RE: **SB 511 (Alquist) Interrogation: recording.
URGE SIGNATURE**

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

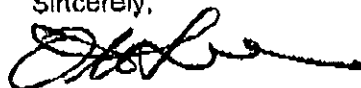
On behalf of the City of Sunnyvale, I urge you to SIGN SB 511 (Alquist) when it comes across your desk.

SB 511 would require custodial interrogations of a person suspected of a homicide or a violent felony to be recorded. This bill will require the creation of an electronic record of entire custodial interrogations in order to eliminate disputes in court as to what actually occurred during the interrogation, thereby improving prosecution of the guilty while affording protection to the innocent.

SB 511 will also help ensure the correct person is prosecuted. As is currently a protocol that was adopted by the Santa Clara District Attorney and law enforcement agencies in Santa Clara County, including the City of Sunnyvale in 2003, this bill requires law enforcement agencies to electronically record interrogations of violent felony suspects. For dozens of California law enforcement agencies this is current practice. The result of recording police interrogations is an accurate record of the suspect's statements and law enforcement's actions, increasing the public's trust in law enforcement and protecting against unwarranted claims by suspects of coercion and other Constitutional violations.

Thank you for your consideration of our position. Please do not hesitate to contact me or Yvette Agredano, Intergovernmental Relations Officer, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Otto Lee
Mayor

cc: The Honorable Elaine Alquist
The Honorable Sally Lieber
Amy Chan, City Manager
Don Johnson, Chief, Department of Public Safety