

P.O. BOX 56156 \* LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90056 \* (323) 960-5120



July 20, 2007

Assembly Member Leno  
 Chair of Assembly Appropriations  
 State Capitol, Room 2114  
 Sacramento, CA 95814  
 Fax: 916-319-2181

**RE: Support for Senate Bill 756 (Ridley-Thomas)**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**PRESIDENT**  
 Taylor Mayfield

**SECRETARY / VICE PRES.**  
 Ruby Sylvestre

**TREASURER**  
 Gloria Byrd

Sanfue Jones

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

Jackie Triplett, Chair  
 Marie Luck  
 Bery Drake  
 Lois Dummer  
 Evelyn Thompson

President Emeritus  
 Ted Lumpkin

Dear Assemblymember Leno:

On behalf of Crenshaw Neighbors Inc., I am writing to express our support for SB 756 (Ridley-Thomas). This measure requires the Attorney General to convene interested parties in the criminal justice system to develop guidelines for the collection and handling of eyewitness identification evidence.

As a long standing, nonprofit, community-based, volunteer organization of concerned residents dedicated to improving the quality of life in the Baldwin Hills / Crenshaw community. We have been championing legislation that protects and enhances the well being of our community since 1964.

We are comforted to know that SB 756 has developed guidelines that will ensure reliable and accurate suspect identifications and shall be consistent with the reliable evidence supporting best practices, including consideration of the recommendations of the California Commission on the Fair Administration of Justice. On or before December 31, 2010, the Attorney General shall report to the Legislature, describing the *voluntary* implementation of the guidelines and the training implemented by California law enforcement agencies.

It is the intent of this legislation to improve the accuracy of eyewitness identifications, increase public trust in the criminal justice system, and implement best practices policies and procedures. Convicting the guilty, while protecting the innocent, is the most fundamental goal of our criminal justice system. Yet, all too often, we fall short.

The California Commission on the Fair Administration of Justice was established by California State Senate Resolution No. 44 "to study and review the administration of criminal justice in California, determine the extent to which that process has failed in the past," examine safeguards and improvements, and recommend proposals to ensure that the administration of criminal justice in California is just, fair and accurate. Chaired by John Van de Kamp, the former Attorney General and former Los Angeles County District Attorney, this bipartisan commission is composed of a victims' rights advocate, prosecutors, law enforcement officers and defense attorneys.

Email us at: [crenshawneighborsinc@hotmail.com](mailto:crenshawneighborsinc@hotmail.com)

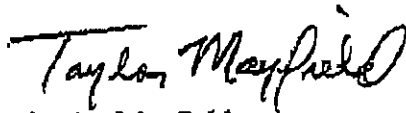
P.O. BOX 56156 \* LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90056 \* (323) 960-5120

This Commission has conducted hearings, reviewed scientific evidence, consulted experts, and listened to personal testimonials. Based on this evidence, the Commission has issued a series of recommendations for reforms needed to prevent wrongful convictions in the state of California.

Crenshaw Neighbors Inc. strongly supports the legislative reforms recommended by the California Commission on the Fair Administration of Justice and urges timely passage of SB 756.

Sincerely,

Crenshaw Neighbors Inc.  
Board of Directors



Taylor Mayfield  
President

cc:

Senator Mark Ridley-Thomas via fax: (916) 651-8899