

NEVADA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



**KEITH ROYAL
SHERIFF/CORONER
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR**

September 14, 2007

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

Re: **SB 756 (Ridley-Thomas) – Request for Veto**

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

As Sheriff of Nevada County and an Officer of the California State Sheriffs Association, I respectfully request you to veto SB 756, which declares a legislative intent that law enforcement officials study and consider adoption of new procedures recommended by the National Institute of Justice and the California Commission on the Fair Administration of Justice regulating eyewitness lineup identifications to ensure a decrease in the number of misidentifications.

One of the recommendations is that an officer not involved in the investigation, and who is unaware of the suspect's identity, conduct the lineup. This presents a problem in that our law enforcement agencies immediately put out a broadcast describing the suspect's physical appearance and name if known, last known location or direction of travel and the vehicle (if applicable) description. Every officer on duty will learn the suspect's description and a brief synopsis of the crime that occurred. This ensures swift capture of the alleged suspect. We would have to call in an officer that was not on duty to conduct the lineup, and this would pose an overtime issue, which can be costly. Also, it would delay securing witness information while we're trying to determine if we caught the right person. This is disruptive to the witnesses and very inefficient in most jurisdictions. In the event of multiple suspects, there would be a need for multiple "unaware" investigators to conduct the lineups.

Another recommendation by the Commission addresses the situation where two or more witnesses are available for an in-field lineup (where an alleged suspect in a recent crime is detained in the field for prompt identification or elimination by drive-by viewing).

The Commission's recommendation is that once a single witness has made a lineup identification, that the other witnesses may not view the suspect, but must await a lineup at a later time. This procedure increases the chances that an innocent person might be wrongly arrested, because a mistaken identification by the first witness was not allowed to be promptly disclaimed by the other witnesses. In this case, a wrong person may be taken into custody while the actual suspect got away. It is very important to secure witness information as soon as possible and to ensure their availability to testify in court.

The current procedures that law enforcement uses for lineups are time-tested and court approved. All of our criminal investigative reports are seriously scrutinized by the District Attorney's office prior to formally charging a defendant. It is not necessary to change the investigative procedures for identifying an alleged suspect. It is for these reasons that I must oppose this bill.

Sincerely,

Sheriff Keith Royal

cc: The Honorable Mark Ridley-Thomas, Member of the Senate – Fax 916-445-8899
Nick Warner, CSSA Legislative Director
Steve Szalay, CSSA Executive Director



BOB BROOKS
SHERIFF
800 S. VICTORIA AVENUE
VENTURA, CALIFORNIA 93009

September 13, 2007

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

Re: SB 756 (Ridley-Thomas) – Request for Veto

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

As Sheriff of Ventura County and a member of the California State Sheriffs' Association, I respectfully request you to veto SB 756, which declares a legislative intent that law enforcement officials study and consider adoption of new procedures recommended by the National Institute of Justice and the California Commission on the Fair Administration of Justice regulating eyewitness lineup identifications to ensure a decrease in the number of misidentifications.

One of the recommendations is that an officer not involved in the investigation, and who is unaware of the suspect's identify, conduct the lineup. This presents a problem in that our law enforcement agencies immediately put out a broadcast describing the suspect's physical appearance and name if known, last known location or direction of travel and the vehicle (if applicable) description. Every officer on duty will learn the suspect's description and a brief synopsis of the crime that occurred. This ~~ensures swift capture of the alleged suspect. We would have to call in an~~ officer that was not on duty to conduct the lineup, and this would pose an overtime issue, which can be costly. Also, it would delay securing witness information while we're trying to determine if we caught the right person. This is disruptive to the witnesses and very inefficient in most jurisdictions. In the event of multiple suspects, there would be a need for multiple "unaware" investigators to conduct the lineups.

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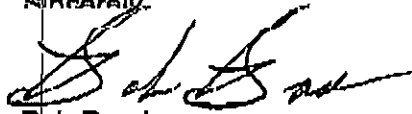
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September 13, 2007
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identification by the first witness was not allowed to be promptly disclaimed by the other witnesses. In this case, a wrong person may be taken into custody while the actual suspect got away. It is very important to secure witness information as soon as possible and to ensure their availability to testify in court.

The current procedures that law enforcement uses for lineups are time-tested and court approved. All of our criminal investigative reports are seriously scrutinized by the District Attorney's office prior to formally charging a defendant. It is not necessary to change the investigative procedures for identifying an alleged suspect. It is for these reasons that I must oppose this bill.

If I can be of further assistance in this matter, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Bob Brooks
Ventura County Sheriff

cc: Hon. Mark Ridley-Thomas, Member of the Senate - Fax 916-445-8899
Nick Warner, CSSA Legislative Director
Steve Szalay, CSSA Executive Director



Yolo County Sheriff's Department

2500 East Gibson Road, Woodland, CA 95776

(530) 668-5280

Fax (530) 668-5238

(916) 375-6493

E. G. Prieto
Sheriff - Coroner

September 10, 2007

Tom A. Lopez
Undersheriff

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

Administration
(530) 668-5280
Finance
Personnel
Planning & Research

Re: **SB 756 (Ridley-Thomas) -- Request for Veto**

Cameron Training Facility

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

Commissary
Inmate Education
Inmate Programs
Inmate Training

As Sheriff of Yolo County and a member of the California State Sheriffs Association, I respectfully request you to veto SB 756, which declares a legislative intent that law enforcement officials study and consider adoption of new procedures recommended by the National Institute of Justice and the California Commission on the Fair Administration of Justice regulating eyewitness lineup identifications to ensure a decrease in the number of misidentifications.

Coroner's Section
(530) 668-5292

One of the recommendations is that an officer not involved in the investigation, and who is unaware of the suspect's identify, conduct the lineup. This presents a problem in that our law enforcement agencies immediately put out a broadcast describing the suspect's physical appearance and name if known, last known location or direction of travel and the vehicle (if applicable) description. Every officer on duty will learn the suspect's description and a brief synopsis of the crime that occurred. This ensures swift capture of the alleged suspect. We would have to call in an officer that was not on duty to conduct the lineup, and this would pose an overtime issue, which can be costly. Also, it would delay securing witness information while we're trying to determine if we caught the right person. This is disruptive to the witnesses and very inefficient in most jurisdictions. In the event of multiple suspects, there would be a need for multiple "unaware" investigators to conduct the lineups.

Field Operations
(530) 668-5280

Another recommendation by the Commission addresses the situation where two or more witnesses are available for an in-field lineup (where an alleged suspect in a recent crime is detained in the field for prompt identification or elimination by drive-by viewing).

Civil
Community Resources
Crime Prevention
Department Training
Investigations
Marine Patrol
Patrol
Search & Rescue
Aero Squadron
Cadets
Posse
Reserves
STARS

The Commission's recommendations is that once a single witness has made a lineup identification, that the other witnesses may not view the suspect, but must await a lineup at a later time. This procedure increases the chances that an innocent person might be wrongly arrested, because a mistaken identification by the first witness was not allowed

Animal Services
(530) 668-5287

Leinberger Detention
(530) 668-5254
Corrections
Inmate Work Programs

Donroe Detention
(530) 668-5245
Court Services
Corrections
Food Services
Records
Transportation

"Service Without Limitations"

to be promptly disclaimed by the other witnesses. In this case, a wrong person may be taken into custody while the actual suspect got away. It is very important to secure witness information as soon as possible and to ensure their availability to testify in court.

The current procedures that law enforcement uses for lineups are time-tested and court approved. All of our criminal investigative reports are seriously scrutinized by the District Attorney's office prior to formally charging a defendant. It is not necessary to change the investigative procedures for identifying an alleged suspect. It is for these reasons that I must oppose this bill.

If I can be of further assistance in this matter, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



E.G. PRIETO
SHERIFF-CORONER

cc: The Honorable Mark Ridley-Thomas, Member of the Senate – Fax 916-445-8899
Nick Warner, CSSA Legislative Director
Steve Szalay, CSSA Executive Director