

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO



KAMALA D. HARRIS  
District Attorney

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

October 1, 2007

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger  
California State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

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Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

I am writing to urge your signature on SB 756 (Ridley-Thomas). As the chief law enforcement official for the City and County of San Francisco, I support the bill's goal of establishing best practices that will help reduce the likelihood of wrongful convictions based on erroneous eyewitness identifications.

The bill provides an important opportunity to develop best practices concerning eyewitness identifications. The bill directs the Attorney General to recommend best practices for eyewitness identifications and how to reduce the risk of erroneous identifications. I support the bill with the expectation that the Attorney General will provide law enforcement officials a meaningful and full opportunity to shape its recommendations concerning best practices.

Moreover, any recommendations issued by the Attorney General will be voluntary and non-binding on local law enforcement. This is critical because I believe law enforcement must be provided not only meaningful input in the development of any recommendations, but also the discretion and resources to implement them in our respective jurisdictions. If a particular recommendation or best practice requires additional police officers or prosecutors, those needs should be considered along with the merits of a particular recommendation.

For these reasons, I urge your signature on SB 756.

Sincerely,

KAMALA D. HARRIS  
District Attorney  
City and County of San Francisco