



BEAUMONT POLICE DEPARTMENT

Sean Thuilliez, Chief of Police

"Commitment to Community"

MEMORANDUM

To: City Council
From: Sean Thuilliez, Chief of Police
Date: September 3, 2024
Re: 2024 Legislative Updates

In my capacity as the Beaumont Chief of Police, I maintain an active role in associations to enhance the position of public safety for the City of Beaumont. One such role is my position as the 2nd Vice President of the California Police Chiefs Association (CPCA) and Vice Chair of our Legislative Committee. CPCA maintains an active role in areas of legislation to achieve reasonable policy change and provide a voice to balance approaches that aim to deteriorate public safety.

As election politics heat up and public opinion continues to swing in favor of addressing the rise in crime and general lack of safety, state representatives are responding ahead of November's General Election. In turn, CPCA witnessed a marked change in the outcomes of early policy committees, which have historically been diametrically opposed to public safety interests on every issue.

This memo presents for your awareness a short list of general legislative topics and several high-profile measures CPCA is actively engaged on.

1. POLICE K9s

With ongoing attempts to eliminate, or dramatically reduce the scope of police K9 units, CPCA coordinated with the Peace Officers Research Association of California (PORAC) and California State Sheriffs' Association (CSSA) at the start of the year to introduce our own bill – [AB 3241 \(Pacheco\)](#). Through policy committee hearings, the opposing measure, [AB 2042 \(Jackson\)](#), was forced to be amended several times to address our major concerns. Leadership in the Assembly then brokered several conversations between parties. With final language agreed upon, CPCA, PORAC, and others are set to withdraw opposition to AB 2042. Given the fact the watered-down version of AB 2042 had a very high probability of getting signed into law, removing all potentially harmful language was the best strategy. AB 2042 is currently held under submission in the Appropriations committee and AB 3241 is awaiting third reading.

UPDATE: Language in both bills have been negotiated or agreed upon, although ACLU and others continue to oppose the bills because they do not ban K9s or define them as deadly force.



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2. RETAIL THEFT

Arguably the highest profile issue, retail theft has become central to the debates regarding the problems with our criminal justice system. There are two primary tracks moving forward this year – an initiative filed by the California District Attorneys Association (CDAA) and major retailers (Proposition 36), and the legislative efforts supported by the Speaker, Pro tem, and Governor. The legislative efforts include multiple bills from the Senate and Assembly, which are fairly comprehensive in totality but stop short of amending Proposition 47. Proposition 36, which CPCA took early support of in the Fall, amends Proposition 47 on both the drug and retail side.

UPDATE: Authored by CPCA, we have a resolution template prepared to seek City Council's formal support (NOTE: League of Cities took a support position in July).

3. TECHNOLOGY RESTRICTIONS

Privacy groups and the ACLU are continuing their attempts to ban or limit the use of various technologies by law enforcement. This includes bans on facial recognition, restriction on geo-fence warrants, and limits on information storage and sharing. Despite these efforts, CPCA and our coalition partners have continued holding the line against any draconian restrictions and outright bans. The most significant threat this year remains [AB 1463 \(Lowenthal\)](#), which would restrict automated license plate reader (ALPR) data sharing/storage by putting a strict 60-day data purge requirement in place statewide for any information not connected to an ongoing investigation.

UPDATE: AB 1463 was held in the Senate Judiciary Committee in July and is done for the year.

4. EDUCATION STANDARD

A top priority at the start of this year is fixing the errant interpretation by POST that existing law requires all prospective law enforcement officers to have both a bachelor's degree and a "modern policing degree" by the fall of 2025. CPCA developed consensus around an immediate fix that would delay implementation until 2029 and clarify one degree alone would suffice.

UPDATE: [AB 852 \(Jones-Sawyer\)](#) has been introduced that contains the immediate fixes needed, and includes a 36-month allowance to complete the associate degree upon completion of the Academy.



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5. SPONSORED/SUPPORT BILLS

- [AB 933 \(Wahab\)](#): AI Generated Sexually Abusive Material

This bill specifies that computer-generated images, for purposes of statutes that criminalize child pornography, include images generated using artificial intelligence (AI).

UPDATE: Passed the Senate and currently held in Assembly Appropriations.

- [SB 796 \(Alvarado-Gil\)](#): Criminal Threats

This bill amends the definition of "criminal threat" so that threatening to commit a crime that will result in death or great bodily injury at a school or place of worship will be punishable as an alternate felony-misdemeanor.

UPDATE: Passed the Senate and Assembly Public Safety Committee, currently held in Assembly Appropriations.

- [SB 804 \(Dahle\)](#): CSO Hearsay Testimony

This bill authorizes law enforcement civilians to provide hearsay testimony at preliminary hearings.

UPDATE: SB 804 was held in Senate Public Safety Committee last year but was able to pass through at the beginning of this session; it has passed both the Senate and Assembly and is currently in the engrossment and enrollment process.

- [AB 2766 \(Low/Dixon\)](#): Prop57 Credit Disclosure

One of CPCA's legislative priorities this year is to gain more information about the good conduct credits being awarded by California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) under Prop57. Towards that goal, AB 2766 makes specific information about an inmate's credits releasable under a Public Record Act request.

UPDATE: AB 2766 was watered down by Assembly Appropriations but continues to move forward and is pending in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

- [SB 1264 \(Grove\)](#): Cannabis Testing

CSSA and CPCA are working together to push a fix for the ambiguity in existing law around cannabis testing of law enforcement. SB 1264, as originally drafted, would have clearly exempted all law enforcement from cannabis testing prohibitions. However, opposition from SEIU and others forced amendments to limit the bill to only sworn officers.

UPDATE: Despite coordinated efforts by CPCA and CSSA, AB 1264 was defeated in the Assembly Labor Committee due to SEIU opposition.



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6. TOP OPPOSE BILLS

- [SB 50 \(Bradford\)](#): Prohibits Low-Level Traffic Stops

Although this bill was defeated on the very last night of session last year, it remains on the Assembly Floor and will be eligible later this year. We expect amendments to emerge at some point from the author, although it is unlikely any changes will remove CPCA fundamental opposition to the premise that officers are making prejudicial and biased stops.

UPDATE: Still pending on Assembly Floor and will be voted on in the coming weeks.

- [SB 94 \(Cortese\)](#): LWOP Reform

This was also one of the final bills we defeated at the end of last year, but one we also expect to reemerge with amendments. Again, it is unlikely any changes will meaningfully address all the various concerns CPCA has raised by undoing prior court decisions on these types of cases.

UPDATE: Awaiting third reading on Assembly Floor and will be voted on in the coming weeks.

- [AB 3021 \(Kalra\)](#): Notification Mandate

A new bill from this year, AB 3021, would require a Miranda-style warning to be read to every immediate family member of an individual seriously injured or killed by law enforcement. While this type of notification is standard in most cases already, the bill requires it immediately and, in every situation, which does not account for instances where law enforcement may have just cause to withhold that information.

UPDATE: This bill barely passed the Assembly and is now awaiting third reading in the Senate Appropriations Committee; it will be voted on in the coming weeks.

- [AB 2354 \(Bonta\)](#): Vacatur Relief

Also, a new bill, AB 2354 expands existing law allowing a court to vacate charges if shown the crime was a direct result of the victimization of human trafficking or domestic violence. While CPCA is sympathetic to these situations, AB 2354 would expand relief to all felonies, remove requirements the crime was a "direct" result of being a victim, requires destruction of all records, and more. As drafted, AB 2354 is a major expansion that fails to find a proper balance.

UPDATE: This bill was defeated in Assembly Public Safety.



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- [SB 1282 \(Smallwood-Cuevas\)](#): Felony Diversion

This bill sought to allow for felony diversion programs, modeled after existing misdemeanor diversion programs, at the local level.

UPDATE: This bill was defeated on the Senate Floor.

- [SB 99 \(Umberg\)](#): Military Equipment

A late gut-and-amend, SB 99 would effectively ban local law enforcement from using any drones manufactured in China, or otherwise banned by the US Department of Defense. CPCA has engaged the author, who is willing to make substantive amendments – although it remains to be determined if there are amendments sufficient to address our concerns.

UPDATE: This bill barely passed the Assembly Public Safety Committee and is held now in Assembly Appropriations.