



# City of Hermosa Beach

Civic Center, 1315 Valley Drive, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254-3885

Michael Detoy, Mayor

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May 24, 2022

The Honorable Assemblymember Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer Sr., Chair  
and members of the California State Assembly Committee on Public Safety  
1020 N Street (LOB), Room 111  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Support - Senate Bill 960 (Skinner) Expanding Eligibility for Peace Officers**

Dear Chair Jones-Sawyer and members of the Assembly Committee on Public Safety:

I am writing to express my strong support of SB 960, which helps diversify law enforcement agencies by removing the requirement for peace officers to be US citizens, while keeping all other stringent qualifications required to become a peace officer. The passage of SB 960 would address the following:

- Recruitment and hiring of police officers is more challenging than ever before.
- Recent legislation has raised the hiring standard to reflect the importance of the role of a police officer in a community.
- As California's diversity continues to grow – where over 220 languages are spoken – California needs peace officers who can communicate effectively with and relate well with their community.
- In recent years, California has opened numerous pathways for non-citizens to enter a myriad of careers. Non-citizen residents can pay instate tuition (AB 540, 2001) at UC, CSU and the Community Colleges. Non-citizen residents with full legal work authorization are eligible to be a member of the California Bar and serve as lawyers (AB 1024, 2013), practice medicine as physicians or nurses, and to receive professional licenses from 43 state Boards and Bureaus under the Department of Consumer Affairs (SB 1159, 2016).
- The Hermosa Beach Police Department is currently recruiting and hiring new police applicants, with an emphasis on creating a diverse workplace, and all eligible candidates should receive an equal opportunity to serve their community.

The efforts to hire a new and culturally diverse police force will be enhanced with the passage of this bill. We view this measure as an additional step in making California



law enforcement the leaders in embracing the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing concepts needed for fair and equitable policing. For these reasons we are pleased to support SB 960.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Detoy".

Michael Detoy  
Mayor

Copy:       The Honorable Senator Nancy Skinner, Senate District 9  
              Suja Lowenthal, Hermosa Beach City Manager  
              Paul LeBaron, Hermosa Beach Chief of Police