

County of Placer Board of Supervisors

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April 3, 2023

The Honorable Corey Jackson
1021 O Street, Ste., 6120
Sacramento, CA 95814

AB 742 (Jackson) - Law enforcement: police canines County of Placer – OPPOSE

Dear Assemblyman Jackson:

On behalf of the Placer County Board of Supervisors, I write to you in opposition to AB 742 (Jackson). Current law allows police officers to use reasonably necessary force when making an arrest and requires them to maintain policies around using that force. However, this bill would make it illegal for law enforcement to use an unleashed police canine to apprehend a suspect and prohibit their use for crowd control.

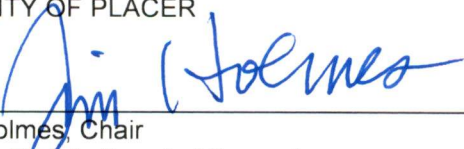
Police dogs are an invaluable, non-lethal part of agencies across California, including the Placer County Sheriff's Office (PCSO). To eliminate the use of canines would be a huge loss for law enforcement in California and an added cost for law enforcement agencies in rural areas. Without canines, PCSO would need to staff an additional law enforcement officer for rural areas which exacerbates current law enforcement budget and recruitment issues. It could also potentially create more dangerous environments for criminals during apprehension by removing a non-lethal tool used by officers.

Placer County knows our canines frequently assist with the safe apprehension of armed and dangerous suspects and prevent the use of deadly force. Every deployment of our canines is well thought out and in compliance with our Sheriff Office policies. While we are understanding of your intent for this legislation, we are very concerned about removing a non-lethal force for de-escalation and what those potential impacts may mean for safely apprehending a suspect.

The Sheriff's Office utilizes canines to protect the public and our officers from injury at the hands of violent criminals as well as to avoid more lethal intervention when officers encounter violent offenders. PCSO utilize canines to help avoid encounters that might escalate to use of deadly force and canines have proven themselves repeatedly as a deterrent to criminal activity. For these reasons, Placer County must oppose AB 742. If you have any questions regarding our position, please contact Joel Joyce, Legislative and Governmental Affairs Coordinator at jjoyce@placer.ca.gov or at 530 889-4026.

Sincerely,

COUNTY OF PLACER



Jim Holmes, Chair
Placer County Board of Supervisors

cc: Placer County Board of Supervisors
Wayne Woo, Placer County Sheriff
Placer County State Elected Delegation
SYASL