



SHERIFF

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The Honorable Jerry Brown
Governor, State of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

September 27, 2013

Subject: Senate Bill 299 – Request for Veto

Dear Governor Brown,

As the Sheriff of Riverside County, I respectfully request that you veto SB 299, which would require persons to report the theft or loss of their firearm to local law enforcement within 7 days of the time it occurred; and report to local law enforcement within 48 hours if the firearm is subsequently recovered.

This bill would place firearm owners in direct jeopardy of criminal fines or prosecution for becoming a victim of a crime, and it flies in the face of everything law enforcement has been taught in community oriented policing. The bill could place criminal liability on the firearm's owner regardless of whether they knew their firearm was stolen. And it would also unfairly impact many of the ethnic minorities within our population.

Firearm owners normally report their stolen firearms to law enforcement; however, the fines or criminal penalties associated with this bill could cause crime victims to refuse to cooperate with police if their stolen firearm is recovered. A firearm's owner, who was not aware of the legal requirement to report the loss or theft of a firearm and who is contacted by police investigating a crime, could face criminal fines or prosecution for failing to report the firearm as stolen or missing. Such an owner might need to hire a lawyer, who would likely advise them to remain silent while immunity is negotiated, rather than quickly supplying officers with the information they need to properly and promptly investigate a crime.

This bill does nothing to help law enforcement in our community and places our citizens in increased criminal jeopardy, and I therefor request that you veto SB 299.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Stanley Sniff", written in a cursive style.

Sheriff Stan Sniff, Riverside County

cc: California State Sheriffs' Association (CSSA)