



April 28, 2019

Assembly Public Safety Committee
1020 N Street (LOB), Room 111
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: SB 230 – Support

Dear Assembly Member Tom Lackey,

The National Latino Peace Officers Association Advocacy would like to express our support for SB 230 – a comprehensive measure that seeks to implement evidence-based, precedent-setting policies to minimize use of force and ensure that our officers can continue to keep Californians safe.

The loss of life is always tragic, and an officer’s use of serious force must be a last resort. Unfortunately, our society has many dangerous threats, and just as our peace officers cannot anticipate what they will encounter on any given day, our policies governing their engagement must account for the dangerous scenarios we see too often confronting law enforcement. In those tense, life-threatening situations, our peace officers fall back on their training to make critical split-second decisions. Rigorous training programs and clear guidelines have effectively and significantly reduced uses of force in cities throughout California and across the nation, and SB 230 will bring these evidence-based best practices to every law enforcement agency in our state.

Under SB 230, California will lead the nation in use of force policing standards, policies, practices, training and reporting. Specifically, SB 230:

- Sets a clear and enforceable standard for authorizing the use of force;
- Provides law enforcement with the training and resources needed to minimize the use of force;
- Mandates that every department adopt modernized and comprehensive use of force policies.

The California Law Enforcement Code of Ethics begins with, “As a law enforcement officer, my fundamental duty is to serve mankind.” In support of this promise, SB 230 builds upon California’s already rigorous crisis intervention and de-escalation training and policies with the goal of reducing use of force incidents – it is an effective approach based on collaboration, science and reason. We urge you to continue pushing for SB 230’s passage for the safety of our families, our communities and all Californians.

It should be noted that *Graham v. Connor* is the law of the land for law enforcement use of force, which states that the totality of circumstances regarding a use of force fall on what a reasonable officer was dealing with and their thought process at the time of the incident.

Sincerely,

Alan Alvarez
NLPOA Advocacy President

Darrin Fulton
NLPOA Advocacy Secretary