

# DPSFV.com

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY

April 11, 2021

RE: DPSFV Supports Senate Bill 2 [Peace officers, Certification]

Representatives of the Honorable San Fernando Valley Delegation:

On behalf of the Democratic Party of the San Fernando Valley (DPSFV), we are pleased to report that our Executive Board voted to support SB 2, which would create an advisory board consisting of both members of the public and law enforcement to review allegations of officer misconduct. In conjunction with the existing Peace Officer Standards Accountability Advisory Board, the new board would have the power to revoke an officer's certification, thereby removing California from the list of just five states that do not have a decertification process for violence-prone police officers.

We urge you to please support this important piece of legislation.

DPSFV was founded in 1978 and is chartered by the Los Angeles County Democratic Central Committee. Our organization is the coordinating body for a coalition of twenty-one Democratic Clubs located in the six Assembly Districts (38, 39, 43, 45, 46, and 50) which are wholly or partially in the San Fernando Valley.

The DPSFV Political Action Committee met last month to discuss SB 2 and voted to recommend that the DPSFV Executive Board support this vital piece of legislation. The committee noted that existing law creates a loophole that allows violence-prone officers to create an unsafe culture for the citizens they are sworn to protect. Without a state structure for decertification, an officer who is fired for misconduct can easily be hired at another police department, commit more transgressions and further erode community trust in law enforcement.

A series of recent, bad court decisions have undermined the Tom Bane Civil Rights Act, creating unprecedented immunity for officers. Officers who plant evidence, fabricate police reports, or lie under oath are immune from a malicious prosecution claim under the Bane Act. Officers are also immune for any excessive force injuries (or deaths) to "prisoners," a broad term that can include anyone from an inmate to someone being held, but never charged, under arrest. As a result, officers have near-total freedom to behave outside the law; they can strip almost anyone of their Constitutional rights without consequence. SB 2 will allow for decertification of bad cops and will correct case made immunities to restore California's historic civil rights law to its original intent.

We strongly urge you to support SB 2.

Please note that DPSFV will be tracking this bill as it travels through the Legislature. Your voting record will be noted and may be considered should you ever seek our endorsement. Your office is always welcome to contact DPSFV if you have any questions.

Sincerely and respectfully,



Chair Sean M. Rivas  
Democratic Party of the San Fernando Valley

cc: Assembly Members Rivas, Friedman, Gabriel, Nazarian, and Bloom  
Senators Hertzberg, Portantino, Stern and Allen

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