February 7, 2013

Statement on Possession, Sales and Use of Firearms

The California State Sheriffs Association (CSSA) recognizes the primary responsibility of law enforcement to protect the citizens and preserve individual rights and freedoms. Individual rights and freedoms as provided by the Constitution of the United States should never be threatened or compromised. It is the position of CSSA, in accordance with the Constitution of the United States and the statutes of the State of California, that law-abiding persons who meet the established requirements have the right to acquire, own, possess, use, keep and bear firearms. This right shall not be infringed.

CSSA supports the longstanding and historical prohibitions on weapons possession recognized by the United States Supreme Court for those who have committed felonious acts and included violent crimes, or by those with mental illness or disorders that make them a danger to themselves or others.

Statement on Issuance of Concealed Weapons Permits

The public safety concerns of the citizens of California vary dramatically among law enforcement jurisdictions given history, geography, demographics and relevant, local social issues. In addition, the personal circumstances of each applicant are unique and must be considered individually by the issuing authority.

The safety of the citizens of California requires that the discretion regarding procedures and requirements for eligibility for the issuance of concealed weapons permits must rest with the issuing authority. This authority to issue concealed weapons permits should be limited to the law enforcement executives (Sheriff or Chief of Police) within each applicant's county or city of residence. The application process, requirements and subsequent determination for or against issuance, should be based on reasonable local jurisdictional standards that each county’s law enforcement executives are best positioned to determine.

Such an important privilege requires constant law enforcement monitoring and review to ensure compliance with the conditions of each concealed weapons permit as violations of these conditions may result in the immediate revocation of this privilege by the issuing Sheriff or Chief of Police.