

# CALIFORNIA Sheriff

CALIFORNIA STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

Volume 37 ■ Number 3 ■ July 2022



## ***Tulare-Kings County Sheriffs Show Their Appreciation for their California Colleagues at Annual CSSA Conference***

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***Sheriff McMahon Awarded the O.J. "Bud"  
Hawkins Award at the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Law  
Enforcement Legislative Summit***

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# California State Sheriffs' Association & Foundation

Supporting Law Enforcement

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CALIFORNIA STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

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**California Sheriff** is the official publication of California State Sheriffs' Association Foundation (CSSAF). Articles or statements of individual authors do not necessarily reflect the views of California State Sheriffs' Association Foundation (CSSAF). Published quarterly, the magazine is designed to keep sheriffs and members informed and aware regarding the association and California law enforcement.

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**Association Mission Statement:** To support the role of Sheriff as the Chief Law Enforcement Officer in each county and to speak as a collective statewide voice on matters of public safety.

**Foundation Mission Statement:** To provide education and training services to the 58 Elected Sheriffs of California, their departmental employees and other members of the California State Sheriffs' Association.



■ SHERIFF KORY HONEA  
■ BUTTE COUNTY

I am incredibly honored to serve as the president of CSSA and thankful for the opportunity. Only one other Sheriff from Butte County has had this honor, Sheriff Larry Gillick, who served as the CSSA president in 1974. When I began my law enforcement career more than thirty years ago, I never imagined I would face so many challenges and, also, have so many incredible opportunities. Being the CSSA president is truly one of the highlights of my law enforcement career.

I am blessed to have the support of my wife, Jennifer, and my daughter, Cassidy. Without their love and support, the successes I enjoy would surely have eluded me. I am also blessed to have a great staff at the Butte County Sheriff's Office. Knowing I have a staff of capable and dedicated professionals to rely upon, has enabled me to take on the added responsibility of serving as the CSSA president.

As you all know, our profession has faced many challenges and endured significant trials over the past several years. Through all of it, Sheriffs have been put into the position of having to stand up against bad public policies that eroded the respect for the rule of law and significantly jeopardized public safety. "Standing tall" has put a target on our backs. Special interest groups and many state lawmakers continue their efforts to curtail the ability of California's elected Sheriffs to police their jurisdictions in a manner that best suits the needs of their diverse communities. Those efforts ignore the fact that as elected Sheriffs we are directly accountable to the people we serve and have a demonstrated track record of embracing programs and strategies that enhance public safety, rather than jeopardizing it.

There are signs though, that people from all walks of life are growing weary of the lawlessness that has resulted from the bad public policies and dangerous laws adopted in the past few years. There is a growing choir of voices demanding relief from increases in violent crimes, organized retail theft and skyrocketing overdose deaths due to drugs like fentanyl. There is also rapidly waning support for calls to "defund the police" and an increased demand for safer communities.

Additionally, I am encouraged by some of the public safety related proposals in the "May Revise" of the Governor's 2022 budget request. If adopted, these proposals will have a positive impact on public safety. The proposals also underscore the importance of properly resourcing law enforcement.

## Dear Friends,

Welcome to this edition of the *California Sheriff* magazine. I write to you having recently been sworn in as the president of the California State Sheriffs' Association (CSSA) during the 128th annual conference jointly hosted by Tulare County Sheriff Mike Boudreaux and Kings County Sheriff David Robinson. It was a great conference that showcased those counties and the dedicated women and men of the Tulare County and Kings County Sheriffs' Offices. I want to thank Sheriff Mike Boudreaux and Sheriff David Robinson for their hospitality. They and their staff did a great job providing California's Sheriffs with opportunities to train, network and meet with state officials and law enforcement leaders.

There are funds to support the expansion of the State's effort to curtail cross-border trafficking of fentanyl and other drugs by cartels. This proposal signals an acknowledgement that cartels are sourcing a drug epidemic that brings death and violence to communities throughout California and a recognition of the need for coordinated intervention efforts.

Additionally, there is a proposal to allocate \$50 million for "officer wellness" programs. This is a recognition that it is a matter of statewide concern to ensure the mental and physical wellbeing of California's law enforcement officers. In his announcement of this proposal, Governor Newsom acknowledged the toll this job takes upon law enforcement officers, saying, "thank you to the men and women in uniform. We have to be mindful of what you have been through, we want to invest in your wellness and your wellbeing." The Governor further noted his office worked with the California Police Chiefs Association and CSSA to come up with strategies to promote wellness among law enforcement officers.

Finally, if adopted, this budget would set aside \$25 million to establish a "Law Enforcement Emergency Fund." The fund would provide advance payment to local law enforcement agencies to cover costs when formally deployed through the State's law enforcement mutual aid system in response to conditions that threaten public safety. A similar fund to support statewide firefighting efforts has existed for many years, but prior efforts to establish a law enforcement emergency fund has been met with resistance. This proposal is an acknowledgement of the important role law enforcement professionals play in protecting Californians from a myriad of threats and hazards.

However, there is still much work left to do and as the collective voice for California's elected Sheriffs, CSSA is on the front line of the battle to ensure our communities are safe. That is why I am honored to serve as the CSSA president and look forward to standing shoulder to shoulder with all of you as we work to make California a safe place to live, work and raise families.

**Sheriff Kory Honea, Butte County**  
CSSA President ☆



■ SHERIFF DEAN F. GROWDON  
■ LASSEN COUNTY

## Dear Friends,

As I write this letter, I reflect on my year as President of the California State Sheriffs' Association. It has been an honor to serve this incredible Organization, and to work closely with all of the Sheriffs in this great and diverse state.

**M**y year as President started with our 127th Annual Conference that was hosted by Butte County Sheriff Kory Honea, and his wife Jennifer. The Conference theme was "California Sheriffs Standing Together to Protect Our Communities". This theme was fitting based on the large-scale natural disasters experienced in Butte County, and around the State of California in recent years. Little did I know that a few weeks after the Annual Conference, my region of the state would be impacted by the Beckwourthe and Dixie fires, resulting in the extraordinary use of mutual aid. As always, California's Sheriffs and their dedicated staff stepped up to assist on these and other disasters as they arose over the past year.

Our Legislative Team worked with the Sheriffs to establish priorities for the year, and lobbied to protect the Office of the Sheriff, and public safety. These efforts are ongoing, and our Legislative Team continues to do good work on all of our behalf.

Our CSSA staff coordinated a number of training opportunities for Sheriffs, and their personnel, as well as planning our quarterly CSSA Board meetings, Annual Conference, and many other events in support of the CSSA mission.

Our Legal Team completed complex analysis of case law, legislation, and statutes, and provided guidance to CSSA on many legal matters.

In October of 2021, Alameda County Sheriff Greg Ahern hosted our inaugural Medal of Valor Ceremony. I was honored to be a part of recognizing the brave and courageous deputies who received the awards. The event had a profound impact on everyone who attended, and provided an avenue for CSSA to recognize some incredible law enforcement professionals.

My tenure as President ended at our 128th Annual Conference, that was Co-hosted by Tulare County Sheriff Mike Boudreaux, and his wife Angela, and Kings County Sheriff David Robinson and his wife Melonie. The Kings -Tulare Conference was an incredible event that culminated with the swearing in of our new CSSA President, Butte County Sheriff Kory Honea. I was honored to be able to pass the leadership on to such a great person and great Sheriff. I want to congratulate President Honea and all of the new CSSA Officers and wish them all the best in the coming year.

In closing, I want to thank all of the Sheriffs for their support and partnership, our CSSA team for all of the incredible work that they do on behalf of CSSA, and my family for their steadfast love and support.

**God bless,**  
**Sheriff Dean F. Growdon,**  
*Lassen County Sheriff-Coroner* ★



▪ M. CARMEN GREEN  
▪ EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**The California State Sheriffs' Association** would like to pay tribute to the fallen officers who made the ultimate sacrifice in 2021.

**We feel great sympathy for the families who have lost their loved ones in these tragic incidents and we offer our sincere condolences.** ✨



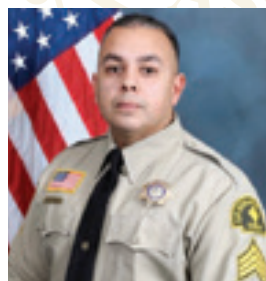
**Deputy Adam Gibson**  
Sacramento County  
Sheriff's Office  
EOW: January 18, 2021



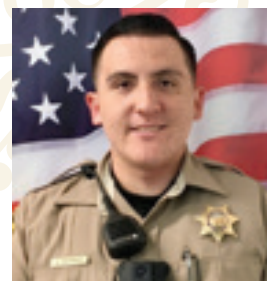
**Deputy Frank Holguin**  
Tulare County  
Sheriff's Office  
EOW: January 27, 2021



**Deputy Thomas Albanese**  
Los Angeles County  
Sheriff's Office  
EOW: February 25, 2021



**Sergeant Dominic Vaca**  
San Bernardino County  
Sheriff's Office  
EOW: May 31, 2021



**Deputy Anthony Redondo**  
Imperial County  
Sheriff's Office  
EOW: June 26, 2021



**Deputy Phillip Campas**  
Kern County  
Sheriff's Office  
EOW: July 25, 2021



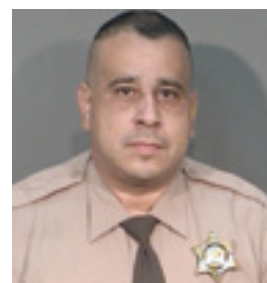
**Officer Harminder Grewal**  
Galt Police Department  
EOW: August 26, 2021



**Lieutenant Robert Travelstead**  
Sonoma County Sheriff's Office  
EOW: September 1, 2021



**Correctional Officer IV Toamalama Scanlan**  
Fresno County Sheriff's Office  
EOW: October 12, 2021



**Correctional Officer Juan Cruz Jr.**  
Fresno County Sheriff's Office  
EOW: November 5, 2021



**Detective Armando Cantu**  
San Bernardino County  
Sheriff's Office  
EOW: November 18, 2021



**Officer Nicholas Vella**  
Huntington Beach  
Police Department  
EOW: February 19, 2022



**Officer Jorge David Alvarado**  
Salinas Police Department  
EOW: February 25, 2022

## California State Sheriffs' Association

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Carmen Green at [cgreen@calsheriffs.org](mailto:cgreen@calsheriffs.org)



▪ **CORY SALZILLO**  
▪ **LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR**

Springtime in the Legislature was marked by months of fast-moving policy and fiscal committee hearings for thousands of legislative proposals before the house of origin deadline on May 27. In May, CSSA held its annual Legislative Days on Tuesday, May 17 and Wednesday, May 18. Sheriffs and staff from around the state met with members of the Legislature from both houses and both parties and discussed a number of important budget and policy issues. A few of the policy issues we discussed that are high priority and opposed by CSSA:

**AB 1608 (Gipson, D – LA)** would require counties to separate the offices of the coroner and sheriff. This proposal would eliminate efficiencies and disregards local control – counties may already separate these offices without state legislation, while providing no funding for counties to stand up 48 new separate coroner offices.

**AB 1782 (Jones-Sawyer, D – LA)** would eliminate the ability of sheriffs' offices to use specified funds to assist in the delivery of vital education, treatment, and benefit programs to persons incarcerated in county jails, by removing the ability of sheriffs to use funds for staff to provide programs.

**SB 1038 (Bradford, D – Gardena)** would deprive law enforcement of tools that could protect the public safety and aid investigations by permanently extending the temporary prohibition on law enforcement's use of biometric surveillance technology, including facial recognition, in officer cameras. Due to lack of support, SB 1038 was moved to the Senate inactive file; therefore the bill is effectively dead and no longer moving forward.

**SB 1273 (Bradford, D – Gardena)** would eliminate the requirement that schoolteachers and administrators notify law enforcement when a student engages in certain unlawful behaviors on campus.

On parallel tracks, there were many hearings held by five different budget subcommittees in each house leading up to the Governor's May Revise, which was released on May 13, and is the adjusted version of the Governor's budget he proposed in January. The modifications made in the Governor's May Revise are based on an update of General Fund revenues after the majority of tax receipts are known. Upon the release of the May Revise, the budget subcommittees continued to hold hearings and vote on items they wanted to include for a vote before the Assembly Budget Committee and the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee. On Monday, June 13, the Assembly and the Senate approved the legislative version of the state budget. While this spending plan represents an agreement between the Assembly and Senate and incorporates most of the Governor's January budget and May Revision, it has not been agreed to by the Governor's Administration as of this writing.

Many items require additional attention in order to find agreement between the Executive and Legislative Branches. It is expected that several budget trailer bills will be passed in August, when the legislature returns from its summer recess. While significant items remain outstanding, CSSA continues to work closely with the Legislature and Administration on a few of the Association's priorities.

The State Sheriffs secured support for much needed funding for Law Enforcement Mutual Aid. CSSA supported the Governor's proposal to

provide \$25 million ongoing to support the state's Law Enforcement Mutual Aid System, designed to reduce local costs and accelerate response time. Frontline law enforcement plays a critical role in responding to disasters and emergencies, including wildfires, that are large in scope and have prolonged timelines. The law enforcement mutual aid system is built on a "neighbor-helping-neighbor" approach but responding agencies often incur immediate costs when they lend assistance to local governments around the state. The creation of this fund, similar to the Emergency Fund that exists for fire agencies providing mutual aid response, will facilitate the immediate and coordinated response to significant emergencies.

In collaboration with other law enforcement partners, we also supported the Governor's proposal to provide \$50 million one-time to fund grants intended to improve general officer health and well-being, build resiliency, decrease stress and trauma, and improve community trust and relations.

Finally, CSSA supported state budget funding for Chico State's proposed new state-of-the-art Human Identification Lab (HIL) and training facility in their search, recovery, and analysis of human remains tied to criminal and missing person cases. Most, if not all, of 58 county sheriffs' offices have utilized the services of Chico State's forensic anthropology professors and students for the very specialized services that only they can provide.

A summation of other public safety related items contained in the Legislative budget include:

### **Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force**

The budget includes \$5 million ongoing to support the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force Program, which helps state and local law enforcement agencies develop an effective response to technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and combatting underground child pornography rings. This investment maintains the level of state resources provided to this effort in each of the last three years.

### **Grants For Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons**

California has one of the largest Native American populations in the United States, and research has found that Indigenous people experience violence and trauma disproportionately higher than the general population. To address these disparities, the budget includes \$12 million over three years to establish a competitive grant program to help California tribes locate and identify missing Indigenous persons. These funds will be available to provide resources for tribal police and prosecutors, counseling services, education, and other activities.

### **Cracking Down on Organized Retail Theft and Other Crimes**

The budget includes the following proposals that bolster local law

enforcement efforts to crack down on organized retail theft and other crimes, and support affected small businesses:

- \$85 million annually through 2024-25 in competitive grants for local law enforcement to combat organized retail crime so Californians and small businesses across the state can feel safe. Under the program, which will be administered by the BSCC, police departments, county sheriffs, and probation departments will receive funding to enforce theft-related laws, including participating in California Highway Patrol (CHP) task forces, increasing presence at retail locations, supporting increased diversion and supervision of people that commit retail theft, and training law enforcement personnel on identifying and combating retail theft. Priority will be given to localities that have seen the greatest increases in theft-related crimes and that do not already have a retail task force presence.
- \$6 million in 2022-23 to provide a total of \$15 million annually for CHP to expand and make permanent its Organized Retail Theft Taskforce. This unit will work with local law enforcement to crack down on organized theft in the Bay Area, Sacramento, San Joaquin Valley, Los Angeles, and San Diego regions.
- \$6 million annually through 2024-25 and \$500,000 ongoing for the Department of Justice (DOJ) to support regional task forces combating organized retail theft and to prosecute retail theft cases that span multiple jurisdictions. Resources will support investigations, legal prosecutions, and data analytics for coordinated efforts against retail theft.

#### Firearms

The budget includes \$25 million one-time to establish a competitive grant program to support local gun buyback programs.

#### Fentanyl Enforcement

The Governor's Budget included \$6 million annually through 2024-25 and \$500,000 ongoing to support regional task forces combating organized retail theft, and \$5 million ongoing to support DOJ participation in anti-crime task forces around the state. The budget builds upon these investments by providing an additional \$7.9 million in 2022-23, and \$6.7 million ongoing, to establish the Fentanyl Enforcement Program. This brings the total additional resources for DOJ task forces to \$18.9 million in 2022-23.

#### 9-8-8 Hotline

The budget provides \$7.52 million for the implementation of the 988 Behavioral and Mental Health hotline.

When the Legislature reconvenes from summer recess on August 1, it only has five weeks to maneuver all remaining bills through the policy and fiscal committees of their second house, then on to the floor and back to their house of origin by August 31. While

it may seem that one month is hardly adequate to undertake the vexing challenges facing this State, the looming final recess on August 31 and the 2022 elections are enough motivation for lawmakers and stakeholders to push through some significant legislation and land bills on the Governor's Desk. ✨

*Cory Salzillo, CSSA's Legislative Director, is a partner of the firm WPSS Group, a pre-eminent team of advisors on matters involving state and local government. The firm effectively influences public policy in a broad spectrum of public sector issues.*

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▪ JAMES TOUCHSTONE  
▪ GENERAL COUNSEL

# “Liability Concerns Associated with Proper Stowage of Firearms by Law Enforcement Officers – The Case of *Perez v. City and County of San Francisco*.”<sup>1</sup>

**O**n March 1, 2022, the Court of Appeal for the First Appellate District concluded that a jury could reasonably find a nexus between a police department’s enterprise of policing and the risk that one of its officers would negligently fail to secure a Department-approved firearm upon returning home from work, thus permitting liability to flow to the employing municipality.

## FACTS OF THE CASE

The police department (“Department”) of the City and County of San Francisco (“City”) issued officers a primary firearm and allowed—but did not require—officers to carry a secondary firearm when on duty if that firearm had been approved and qualified by the Department. The Department also authorized officers to carry loaded handguns when off duty, as long as they had their Department identification and star with them. In 2015, the Department issued a bulletin governing firearm security in vehicles, which stated that Department officers “are responsible for knowing the location of firearm(s) under their care and control; and ensuring those firearm(s) are secure at all times, whether on or off duty.” The bulletin set forth specific guidelines for securing firearms in an unattended vehicle and directed that, if an officer could not secure a firearm in accordance with the guidelines, the officer “shall not leave a firearm in an unattended vehicle.” State law also requires peace officers to secure handguns in unattended vehicles. (Penal Code sections 25140, 25452.)

Marvin Cabuntala was employed as a police officer by the Department. Officer Cabuntala had a primary firearm issued by the Department. He also owned a personal gun that the Department had approved and qualified as a secondary firearm. Officer Cabuntala regularly carried this secondary firearm on duty, as was common among Department officers. He also regularly transported it in his vehicle while commuting to and from work. Officer Cabuntala also regularly carried this firearm when off duty.

Officer Cabuntala was also a Department “specialist.” Specialists work with a special operations group outside of patrol assignments, responding to incidents like hostage-taking and riot control. Officer Cabuntala testified at his deposition that specialists are “on call 24/7” and that he had responded at all hours outside of his regular schedule. Specialists were not permitted to respond to incidents without a firearm.

In August 2017, the City assigned Officer Cabuntala to a training session in a different county. He drove his personal vehicle from his home to the training site. Firearms were not allowed at the training session. However, Officer Cabuntala brought his personal, secondary firearm with him when he drove to the training session because, he stated, he was on-duty and “the jail was right next door to the [training] facility.” After the training was over, Officer Cabuntala drove home, arriving shortly before the end of his scheduled work hours. That day, he failed to follow his usual practice of securing his personal, secondary firearm inside his house. Instead, he left the firearm unsecured inside his vehicle.

That night, Officer Cabuntala’s vehicle was broken into and his firearm was stolen. Officer Cabuntala did not realize the firearm was stolen until some days later. In the interim, the firearm was used to kill the son of Mayra Perez (“Plaintiff”).

Plaintiff sued Cabuntala, the City, and others. The City moved for summary judgment. The trial court granted the City’s motion for summary judgment, finding as a matter of law that Officer Cabuntala’s conduct in failing to properly store his firearm was not within the course and scope of his employment. Plaintiff appealed.

## DISCUSSION

The First District Court of Appeal explained that “[t]he doctrine of respondeat superior holds an employer liable for torts of its employees committed within the scope of their employment.” (*Marez v. Lyft, Inc.* (1st Dist. 2020) 48 Cal.App.5th 569, 577.) “[R]espondeat superior applies to public and private employers alike.” (*Mary M. v. City of Los Angeles* (1991) 54 Cal.3d 202, 209.) “[T]he central justification for respondeat superior[is] that losses fairly attributable to an enterprise—those which foreseeably result from the conduct of the enterprise—should be allocated to the enterprise as a cost of doing business.” (*Farmers Ins. Group v. County of Santa Clara* (1995) 11 Cal.4th 992, 1004.)

The scope of employment test the Court used here considered whether “the employee’s misconduct could be reasonably foreseen by the employer...” (See *Marez*, *supra*, 48 Cal.App.5th at p. 577.) The First District explained that “‘foreseeability’” as a test for *respondeat superior* [ ]means that *in the context of the particular enterprise* an employee’s conduct is not so unusual or startling that it would seem unfair to include the loss resulting from it among other costs of the employer’s business.” (*Farmers*, *supra*, 11 Cal.4th at pp. 1003–1004.) Thus, “an employee’s tortious act may be within the scope of employment *even if* it contravenes an express company rule and confers no benefit to the employer.” (*Id.* at p. 1004, *emphasis added*.)

The Court discussed the *Farmers* decision, in which a deputy sheriff working at the county jail sexually harassed other deputy sheriffs during work hours while the deputies were on duty. The California Supreme Court found that the conduct was not within the scope of employment. The Court explained that while workplace sexual harassment in general is a foreseeable issue, the question for *respondeat superior* purposes is whether it is “‘typical of or broadly incidental’ to the enterprise undertaken by the employer.” [Citations.] Thus, it is not enough that a risk be neither unusual nor startling as a general matter; rather, the risk must be evaluated in the context of the employer’s particular enterprise,” and there was no evidence that workplace sexual harassment was “typical of or broadly incidental to the particular enterprise here—a county jail.” (*Id.* at p. 1009.)

Turning to its analysis of the City’s liability, the Court reviewed the evidence: the Department allowed officers to carry approved, secondary firearms while on duty and officers regularly did so; the Department knew or reasonably should have known that officers transport these firearms on their commutes to and from work because there was no evidence that such firearms were required to be left at the police station after an officer’s shift was over; the Department allowed officers to carry handguns while off duty as long as they also carried indicia of their status as police officers; Department specialists may be called to respond to incidents at any time, and must carry a firearm when they respond; Officer Cabuntala—a Department officer and specialist—brought his Department-approved secondary firearm while traveling to a Department-assigned training session; he did so because he was on-duty and would be training near a county jail<sup>2</sup>; and the firearm was present in his vehicle upon his return home because he brought it to his assigned work location for these work-related purposes.

The Court explained that it considered these facts “in the context of the enterprise of policing, the centrality of firearms to that enterprise, and the underlying rationale for *respondeat superior* that ‘losses fairly attributable to an enterprise—those which foreseeably result from the conduct of the enterprise—should be allocated to the enterprise as a cost of doing business.’” (*Farmers*, *supra*, 11 Cal.4th at p. 1004.)” Given this context, the Court held that a jury could reasonably find a nexus between the Department’s enterprise of policing and the risk that one of its officers would negligently fail to secure a Department-approved, secondary firearm upon returning home from work. In the context of the enterprise of policing, a jury could reasonably find the officer’s failure to safely secure his weapon.

The City contended that the case of *Henriksen v. City of Rialto* (4th Dist. 1993) 20 Cal.App.4th 1612, found as a matter of law that an officer’s off-duty negligent mishandling of his service revolver was not within the scope of employment. In a divided opinion, the Court of Appeal affirmed summary judgment for the city in that case. The majority analogized guns to automobiles because both were “potentially dangerous instrumentalit[ies]” and concluded that, like automobiles, the use of a gun must be for “employer business” to fall within the scope of employment. (*Id.* at pp. 1620–1621.) The majority concluded, “[t]he mere presence of the weapon, however, without more is not sufficient to impose liability on the employer for all of the employee’s actions.” (*Id.* at p. 1621.) The *Perez* Court, however, rejected the *Henriksen* majority’s reasoning. Instead, the Court held that the City failed to demonstrate that Plaintiff could not establish *respondeat superior* liability as a matter of law, and accordingly reversed.

It is important to note that the Court distinguished between negligent mishandling of firearms and intentional misuse. The Court stated that its reasoning did not extend beyond instances of officers’ negligent mishandling of firearms. The Court explained that an officer who intentionally uses his authorized firearm to, for example, damage a neighbor’s person or property as part of an ongoing dispute has “substantially deviate[d] from the employment duties for personal purposes” such that “the losses do not foreseeably result from the conduct of the employer’s enterprise and so are not fairly attributable to the employer as a cost of doing business.” (*Farmers*, *supra*, 11 Cal.4th at p. 1005, *italics omitted*.)

The *Perez* decision highlights another area of potential liability exposure for Sheriff’s Offices that may occur more frequently than law enforcement executives would like. Agencies would be well served in providing robust training to their deputies to ensure proper storage of firearms while both on and off duty to limit liability exposure. Holding deputies accountable when they fail to follow departmental policies concerning proper storage of firearms would also be a cornerstone of risk management in this context. ✨

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## REFERENCES

<sup>1</sup> 75 Cal. App. 5th 826 (2022)

<sup>2</sup> Based on the officer’s mention of these two facts, the Court reasoned that a jury could infer Officer Cabuntala thought he might be called to respond to an incident at the jail as an on-duty officer or specialist.



- LAURA COLE, TRANSPARENCY ENGAGEMENT ADVISOR
- JOE VAZQUEZ, TRANSPARENCY ENGAGEMENT ADVISOR

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## *SHERIFFS' OFFICES USING* **SOCIAL MEDIA** **TO ENGAGE COMMUNITIES**

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**A**s the old teacher's tale goes, when talking to teenagers, their attention span is so short that you should say everything you can in the amount of time it would take to light a match and watch the flame go out. Cut to the chase, they say!

Nowadays, the prevalence of social media and the ways in which many in our society consume news and other content are guiding Sheriffs' offices to use short form videos to communicate with the public and tell their stories quickly.

Constantly changing information makes it difficult for people to pay attention to longer messages. Short form videos of 15 seconds or less are becoming a primary way that people are learning about the world. Sheriffs' offices are using this to their advantage, utilizing social media to reach more people and build positive working relationships with their communities.

Video is becoming much more important. When sending out emergency notifications to the public, sheriff communications teams are now including video whenever possible. The new short form of communication also presents many positive opportunities. Sheriffs' offices are being more transparent; telling the public their full stories and showing the humanity behind the badge. Short form videos allow law enforcement to tell those stories using creative bursts of video. Those videos allow Sheriffs' offices to feature individual employees to get the public to understand the important work of public safety. It offers an opportunity to provide more behind-the-scenes glimpses of government agencies hard at work. Viewers can watch a day-in-the-life of a Sheriff's team through short videos.

As the audience shifts its viewing habits, Sheriffs' communications teams are adapting accordingly to round out the public's understanding of public safety, using video to bring law enforcement and the community together. ✨



# TULARE-KINGS COUNTY SHERIFFS SHOW THEIR APPRECIATION FOR THEIR CALIFORNIA COLLEAGUES AT ANNUAL CSSA CONFERENCE

For the first time in the history of the California State Sheriffs' Association, the Tulare County Sheriff's Office and the Kings County Sheriff's Office co-hosted the 128th annual CSSA conference. The conference was held in Visalia, CA from April 24-27, 2022 and had many components that were crucial to helping Sheriffs do what they do. The conference featured networking, meetings, and of course a little unwinding. And Tulare and Kings counties were truly honored to be able to show their sincere appreciation for the sheriffs and the partnerships that they have with each other. Tulare County Sheriff Mike Boudreaux

and Kings County Sheriff Dave Robinson ensured that Sheriffs and their spouses had plenty to do for the four-day event.

Pre-conference activities included a POST training, Spouses Meet & Greet with California State Senator Shannon Grove (R-Bakersfield), Round Table discussion and a Welcome Reception with vendors, where Sheriffs were able to get in some great networking.

By Monday, the Sheriffs and guests knew they were in for something special at the Opening Ceremonies when AC/DC's "Thunderstruck" rang out following the presentation of colors. Additional members of the Tulare-Kings Honor Guard marched into the room and put on an amazing presentation. A surprise video was also shown at the Opening Ceremonies, which featured Sheriff Robinson and Sheriff Boudreaux telling jokes and bickering about whether it was the "Tulare-Kings" or "Kings-Tulare" Conference.

Following the Opening Ceremonies, Sheriffs and their staff were greeted by nearly a hundred exhibitors and Corporate 100 Partners in a massive exhibit hall. This is a great opportunity for vendors to show the Sheriffs their product and discuss how they can help one another going forward. Our Sheriffs have fostered many great partnerships that have stemmed from interactive events such





as Annual Conference. It has been really beneficial to keep our exhibit hall going, and to see it grow each year with new vendors who would like to participate.

Subsequently, the Sheriffs, their Seconds in Command and Spouses all enjoyed lunch at the old Kings County Courthouse in Hanford, which was built in 1898 and is now on the National Register of Historic Places. The guest speaker was Lorenzo Neal, a former NFL fullback from Kings County. The Seconds in Command portrait was taken on the old courthouse steps.

Tuesday was an activity day with options to play golf at the Visalia Country Club; Pistol/Trap Shoot at the Visalia Police Range/Tulare County Trap Club; and Cornhole Tournament at the Surf Ranch in Lemoore. This was a great opportunity for attendees to network in a more relaxed environment.

The BBQ Tuesday night had a distinct western flare at the Whitney's Wild Oak Ranch in Exeter. Colors were presented on horseback by the combined Tulare-Kings posse as the National Anthem was sung by the GillyGirls. Sheriffs, Seconds, and Spouses were able to come together and just enjoy themselves for the night.

The final day started with the Sheriffs/Retired Sheriffs and Seconds in Command breakfast where former CalOES Chief and Merced County Retired Sheriff Mark Pazin was honored by CSSA outgoing President Sheriff Dean Growdon for his outstanding support and service. Afterward, the Sheriffs had their group photo

taken in front of the old Tulare County Jail, built in 1890 and rebuilt in 1918, in downtown Visalia.

The Sheriffs returned to the Visalia Convention Center for a General Business/Board of Directors Meeting while the spouses traveled back to the Whitney Ranch. This time, the spouses went to the Victorian gardens area of the ranch for a lovely outdoor painting activity by Lushy Brushy and a cooking demonstration by Chef David Vartanian from the Vintage Press Restaurant in Visalia. Spouses have a very unique role, so being able to come together and network with others in the same role is just one of the great things about the CSSA annual conference. The spouses' portrait was also taken there.

The Installation Banquet was the perfect way to end the conference on a high note. It was held outdoors at the private home of farmers Raman and Saba Toor, who are dear friends of Sheriff Boudreaux. During the program at the Installation Banquet, the 10 deputies who gave their lives in the line of duty during the past year were honored. As each name was read aloud, a bell tolled and an Honor Guard member approached each sheriff who had lost a Deputy this past year with a memorial American Flag. After a delicious meal prepared by the Vintage Press, the new CSSA Officers stepped down from the stage and faced former San Francisco Assistant District Attorney Brooke Jenkins who swore them in. Sheriff Dean Growdon from Lassen County handed the gavel to Butte County Sheriff Kory Honea, the new CSSA President. Sheriff Boudreaux was sworn in





as the 1st Vice President of the nonprofit organization. Next year, Sheriff Boudreaux will be sworn in as President.

“It’s a great honor to be an officer in the California State Sheriffs’ Association,” Sheriff Boudreaux said. “Together, Sheriffs from across the state, come together to discuss crime trends and current legislation to better serve their communities.”

Hosts Sheriff Robinson and Sheriff Boudreaux said they were very thankful that sheriffs from all over the state came to Tulare-Kings counties for the annual CSSA conference. “I’d like to thank

Sheriff Mike Boudreaux for all his help and all his team’s help and my staff as well,” Sheriff Robinson said. “And we look forward to seeing everybody at the next event.”

Whether it’s Tulare-Kings or Kings-Tulare, one thing is certain among the sheriffs in California.

“We all recognize the importance of working together,” Sheriff Boudreaux said. “I just want to say thank you. I appreciate all the professionalism and I appreciate the collaboration and I appreciate the friendships.” ★



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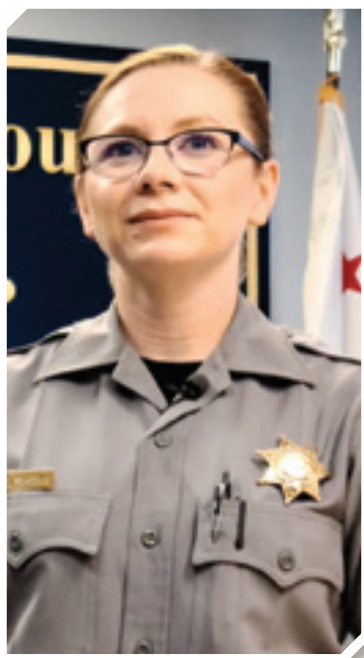
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# Deputy Highlight

## **Deputy Erin Wilhelm**

The California State Sheriffs' Association has recently been working with counties to produce a video series highlighting deputies across California who truly embody what it means to be in law enforcement. We are proud to say that our first deputy highlighted was an amazing one!

We'd like to take this opportunity to highlight Deputy Erin Wilhelm. Deputy Wilhelm is a detective and patrol officer with the Alameda County Sheriff's Office. She decided a career in law enforcement was what she wanted to do after reflecting on all of the positive interactions that she had with law enforcement growing up. Her full video can be found on our Facebook page.

## **Sheriff McMahon Awarded** ★ **THE O.J. "BUD" HAWKINS AWARD AT THE 30<sup>TH</sup>** ★ **ANNUAL LAW ENFORCEMENT LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT**



On Wednesday March 2nd our very own Sheriff McMahon (San Bernardino County) had the high honor of receiving the Bud Hawkins award. The O.J. "Bud" Hawkins Memorial Law Enforcement Award is given to those who have demonstrated excellence in service and set high standards. The few recipients of this award have demonstrated creativity, perseverance, and dedication to improve the California law enforcement profession. We thank you, Sheriff McMahon for your dedication and service to your community!

# California State Sheriffs' Association Foundation Membership Program

Individuals and Businesses who want to take a proactive approach to support public safety in their communities may join the California State Sheriffs' Association Foundation (CSSAF). CSSAF is entirely funded by the generous contributions and support from our members. We are a qualified, non-profit organization under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code, which means that your donations qualify as tax deductions. The sheriffs of California have full control and direction of all association operations and activities.

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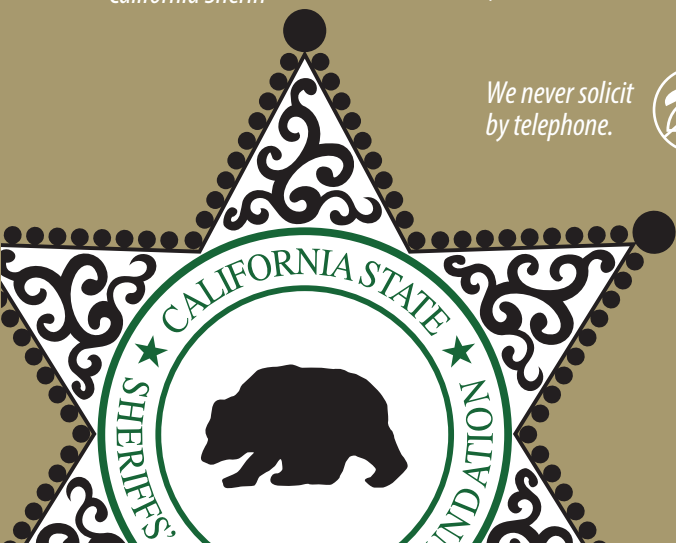
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