

CITY OF



ONTARIO

303 EAST "B" STREET, CIVIC CENTER

ONTARIO

CALIFORNIA 91764-4105

(909) 395-2000
FAX (909) 395-2070

PAUL S. LEON
MAYOR

RUBEN VALENCIA
MAYOR PRO TEM

ALAN D. WAPNER
JIM W. BOWMAN
DEBRA DORST-PORADA
COUNCIL MEMBERS

SCOTT OCHOA
CITY MANAGER

SHEILA MAUTZ
CITY CLERK

JAMES R. MILHISER
TREASURER

May 7, 2019

The Honorable Shirley Weber & Kevin McCarty
California State Assembly
State Capitol Building, Room 3123 & 2136
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Assembly Bill 392 – Notice of Opposition

Dear Assembly Members Weber and McCarty,

The City of Ontario must respectfully oppose Assembly Bill 392. As currently drafted, the legislation would modify the long-standing definition for use of force from 'reasonable' to 'necessary', removing important legal protections for peace officers making split second decisions in high-risk environments, and limiting their ability to properly respond to life and death situations. Furthermore, requiring law enforcement to go through a check list of possible alternatives before being able to adequately neutralize a threat will make officers second guess their response, leaving them vulnerable to death or serious bodily injury.

We truly appreciate your efforts and commitment to protect the sanctity of life by decreasing the number of officer related incidents. However, we believe the best method is not to take protections away from officers, but to equip them with the necessary tools to make the correct calls. The City of Ontario deeply believes changing the legal standard will lead to confusion among our force on how to respond to specific incidents, creating disparities across departments and increasing unnecessary risks. A better solution is to require agencies to create policies and provide statewide training on how to deal with various scenarios where use of force might be required, particularly when dealing with vulnerable populations.

The City of Ontario, as well as the Ontario Police Department remains fully committed to the safety of our community, and open to implementing new policies and trainings to help enhance the services provided to our residents.

Sincerely,

Paul S. Leon
Mayor

c: The Honorable Senator Connie M. Leyva
The Honorable Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez