

**From:** Carl Benninger <benninger72@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 18, 2023 12:11 PM  
**To:** eComment  
**Subject:** Support for Item 24 on tonight's Agenda

I would like to express my support for Council's action on Assembly Bill 742, This bill should be opposed. It takes away a non-lethal way for police to catch a criminal. Plus the animals who are police dogs are well cared for by their trainers. Many trainers adopt the animals after their service time is over, ensuring they will have a good home.

So I do ask all councilmember to say against Assembly Bill 742

Carl Benninger  
1829 W. Garry Ave  
Santa Ana, Ca 92704

## Orozco, Norma

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**From:** Bulmaro Vicente <boomer@chispaoc.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 17, 2023 5:30 PM  
**To:** eComment  
**Cc:** Bacerra, Phil; Amezcua, Valerie; Phan, Thai; Penaloza, David; Lopez, Jessie; Vazquez, Benjamin; Hernandez, Johnathan  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 24: Letter of Opposition - Chispa  
**Attachments:** Chispa Letter of Opposition Item 24.docx.pdf  
  
**Categories:** Correspondence, Complete

Good afternoon,

On behalf of Chispa, I am submitting the attached Letter of Opposition for Agenda Item 24. Thank you.

In Solidarity,

Boomer  
Policy and Political Director | Chispa  
e: [boomer@chispaoc.org](mailto:boomer@chispaoc.org) c: [714.747.4271](tel:714.747.4271)  
1505 E 17th Street Suite 117 Santa Ana, CA 92705

[Chispa is building a political home for young Latinxs in Orange County! Please consider making a donation to help us build our casita. Chispa is a project of Tides Advocacy, a 501c4 non-profit organization.](#)





April 17, 2023

Mayor Amezcua and City Councilmembers  
20 Civic Center Plaza  
Santa Ana, CA 92701  
[ecomment@santa-ana.org](mailto:ecomment@santa-ana.org)

*Via Email*

RE: Resolution to Declare Opposition for Assembly Bill 742, Agenda Item 24

Dear Mayor Amezcua and City Councilmembers,

**Chispa** urges you to vote NO on Item 24, A Resolution to Declare Opposition for Assembly Bill (AB) 742, and instead adopt a resolution to support the bill. The City of Santa Ana (City) should not backtrack on its efforts towards police reform, but must instead take proactive steps to address the recent instances of misconduct and the alarming policing culture of the Santa Ana Police Department (SAPD). The City must continue to work towards fostering accountability and improving public safety for all its residents.

AB 742 will prohibit police from using canines in making arrests or for any form of crowd control, putting an end to a vicious practice. Importantly, this bill will not prevent the use of police canines for search and rescue, explosives detection, and narcotics detection that do not involve biting.<sup>1</sup> The use of canines has severe and deadly consequences for the public, particularly for communities of color. Per the California Department of Justice Use of Force Data from 2021, police canines accounted for nearly 12% of incidents that resulted in severe injury or death. Of these cases, nearly two-thirds of the people that police canines seriously injured or killed were Black or Latino. Additionally, Black people were 2.6 times more likely to be seriously injured by police canines than white people.<sup>2</sup> The bill aims to put an end to police using canines to intentionally maul people, a cruel practice that disproportionately affects people of color.

The Resolution to Declare Opposition to AB 742 comes in the wake of several egregious incidents and lawsuits involving the SAPD. Recently, an article published by Knock LA brought

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<sup>1</sup> [https://aclucalaction.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/AB-742\\_Police-Canine-Use\\_Fact-Sheet.pdf](https://aclucalaction.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/AB-742_Police-Canine-Use_Fact-Sheet.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://data-openjustice.doj.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2022-08/USE%20OF%20FORCE%202021.pdf>

to light a satirical and insensitive “be on the lookout” (BOLO) bulletin, circulated by the police, which made reference to the 2021 killing of Brandon Lopez, the cousin of City Councilmember Jonathan Hernandez. The BOLO revealed that officer Nelson Menendez, who was on duty at the time, falsely claimed through radio communication that Lopez was carrying a gun. The BOLO has been the subject of an internal affairs investigation for over a year and a half, yet no one has been held accountable. The article also highlights two lawsuits filed by two former officers against the City, alleging retaliation from the Police Chief and Command Staff.<sup>3</sup>

The SAPD's ongoing, appalling patterns of misconduct damage the City's reputation and integrity, and erode public trust in the Department. Instead of opposing legislation like AB 742, which aims to end cruel and deeply racialized practices, the City needs to address the shortcomings of its own police department.

Currently, the City is taking proactive steps to improve police accountability with the implementation of the historic Santa Ana Police Oversight Commission. We applaud these efforts. The City must continue to adopt higher standards that will hold the police department accountable, and ensure transparency. For these reasons, Chispa urges you to vote NO on Item 24, and instead adopt a resolution to *support* AB 742. The City must also determine next steps to address Santa Ana Police Department's most recent disturbing and shameful misconduct.

Sincerely,



**Signature**

Bulmaro Vicente

Policy and Political Director

CC: [vamezcua@santa-ana.org](mailto:vamezcua@santa-ana.org)  
[PBacerra@santa-ana.org](mailto:PBacerra@santa-ana.org)  
[TPhan@santa-ana.org](mailto:TPhan@santa-ana.org)  
[DPenaloza@santa-ana.org](mailto:DPenaloza@santa-ana.org)  
[JessieLopez@santa-ana.org](mailto:JessieLopez@santa-ana.org)  
[JRyanHernandez@santa-ana.org](mailto:JRyanHernandez@santa-ana.org)  
[bvazquez@santa-ana.org](mailto:bvazquez@santa-ana.org)

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<sup>3</sup> <https://knock-la.com/fake-bolo-at-sapd-reveals-culture-of-harassment/>

## Orozco, Norma

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**From:** timrush@bhhscaprops.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 12, 2023 1:45 PM  
**To:** eComment  
**Cc:** 'Dave Elliott'; Valentin, David  
**Subject:** AB 742, Bill to Ban the use of K-9 Dogs unleashed for crowd control or arrest

Dear Honorable Mayor & Councilmembers;

On behalf of the G-7 Neighborhood Leaders Alliance we wish to implore you pass a proclamation asking that the California State Assembly vote against the passage of this bill or any version of this bill. This bill is in direct opposition to giving law enforcement the tools they need to maintain order and keep law abiding citizens safe. This is another attempt by the "defund the police" crowd to further their goals to make our State and local communities less safe.

We hope that you will vote to pass a proclamation urging the defeat of this legislation. Thank you for supporting neighborhoods and public safety.

Sincerely,

Tim Rush, Chairman  
G-7 Neighborhood Leaders Alliance  
Leaders Leading the Way to a Better Santa Ana

Cc; G-7 Board Members  
Assemblymember Avelino Valencia

**Tim Rush**  
Chief People Connector  
Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices California Properties  
The Maple Building, Corporate Offices  
16911 South Bellflower Boulevard  
Bellflower, CA 90706-5903  
(714) 299-4455  
17 Branch Sales Offices, Serving 6 Southern California Counties





