

April 15, 2021

The Honorable Thomas J. Umberg
Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol, Room 2187
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Senate Bill 2 (Bradford) Kenneth Ross Jr. Police Decertification Act of 2021 - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Umberg,

NextGen California respectfully requests your support of SB 2, the Kenneth Ross Jr. Police Decertification Act of 2021. This bill would create a fair and impartial administrative system, with specified due process safeguards, to revoke the professional certification of a law enforcement officer for a criminal conviction as well as certain acts of serious misconduct. Additionally, the bill revises and clarifies the Tom Bane Civil Rights Act (Bane Act), strengthening its provisions related to holding a law enforcement officer accountable for violating a person's civil rights.

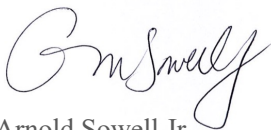
Our organization has the utmost respect and appreciation for the law enforcement profession and the officers who day in and day out protect and serve our communities. However, every year, there are a number of criminal acts committed by a small subset of the law enforcement officer community which often escape accountability. An officer who violates a person's civil rights or engages in other serious misconduct must be held accountable and not allowed to continue to serve in the law enforcement community.

Nationwide, 46 states have the authority to decertify police officers – California is not one of them. In our state, the law enforcement community has largely been left to police itself. Such a misconduct review and enforcement system does not work and only leads to community mistrust and a lack of process integrity. To restore trust in our law enforcement agencies and ensure the safety and security of our communities, we must create a misconduct review system that is universal, fair, and accountable.

SB 2 provides such a system by: (1) updating the Bane Act to ensure that the civil rights of victims of police misconduct are protected; and (2) creating a just process to permanently remove the “bad apples” from the policing profession.

NextGen California supports policies and programs that strengthen the integrity of our public institutions and address inequities in our criminal justice system. For the above reasons we respectfully request your “aye” vote on SB 2.

Sincerely,



Arnold Sowell Jr.

Executive Director, NextGen California