



CITY OF LOS ANGELES

February 15, 2007

The Honorable Gloria Romero
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 313
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Romero:

We write in support of your effort to propose new legislation that would overturn the California Supreme Court decision in Copley Press vs. Superior Court.

Here in Los Angeles, the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) had a long history of Board of Rights hearings that were open to the public prior to the Copley decision. We believe that open Board of Rights hearings add transparency to the process by which complaints against police officers are adjudicated. This transparency serves both the public's interest in understanding the intricacies of a particular event and the police officers' interest in publicly absolving themselves in cases where they were acting in accordance with LAPD procedures.

We support your legislation, as it would allow Los Angeles to go back to the practice of open Board of Rights hearings, as was the practice prior to the Copley decision. Thank you for your leadership on this very important issue. We look forward to working with you to ensure that the City of Los Angeles can reopen the LAPD's Board of Rights hearings to the public.

Sincerely,

ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA
Mayor

WILLIAM J. BRATTON
Chief of Police

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