

County of Riverside

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SUPERVISOR V. MANUEL PEREZ FOURTH DISTRICT

March 22, 2018

The Honorable Stanley E. Henry
c/o City of Cathedral City
68-700 Avenida Lalo Guerrero
Cathedral City, CA 92234

Via email

Dear Mayor Henry:

I am writing to request your support for Senate Bill 1043 (Newman), which will increase funding from the State of California for county veterans service officers statewide. SB 1043 requests an increase for funding our veterans service officers to a \$7 million appropriation.

Veterans service officers are the vanguard for California veterans and their access to benefits for health care, education and numerous other benefits they have earned. Over the past three years, Riverside County's veterans service officers have helped veterans receive nearly \$100 million in benefit payments.

During the recession, funding from the state for this essential program dropped from \$11 million annually to \$3 million. The current level of funding, which is shared among California's 58 counties, today stands at \$5.6 million.

Riverside County is proud to lead an effort to pursue greater state funding to increase our service to veterans and families. In December, with the full support of our Board, Supervisor Chuck Washington and I directed our county advocates to request an increase of funding for veterans service officers. SB 1043, introduced recently by State Sen. Josh Newman, is a legislative vehicle for this important funding request.

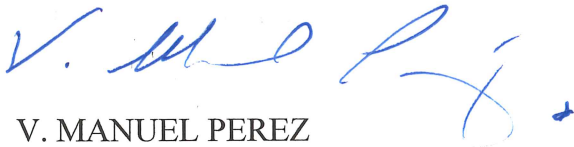
I would greatly appreciate your office and the City Council providing letters in support of SB 1043 to Sen. Newman. Attached is a sample letter. I would respectfully request my office be copied on your letter of support.

The Honorable Stanley E. Henry
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If you have any questions about this request, please contact my Chief of Public Policy Tom Freeman at TSFreeman@rivco.org.

Your support for our veterans is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "V. Manuel Perez", with a small blue mark to the right.

V. MANUEL PEREZ
Supervisor, Fourth District

cc: Deputy CEO- Legislative Affairs

Attachment