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November 8, 2000

Bernard C. Parks, Chief of Police
Los Angeles Police Department
Parker Center, Room 615
150 North Los Angeles Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Chief Parks:

The Los Angeles Police Department deserves praise for its leadership in proactively fighting elder financial abuse. Your department's leadership led to widespread support of Senate Bill 1742, which will enable law enforcement officers to better serve elders by securing and protecting their assets during the course of a financial abuse investigation. SB 1742 was signed by Governor Gray Davis on September 28, 2000 and will be effective on January 1, 2001.

Senate Bill 1742 codifies the successful groundbreaking tactics developed and practiced by your own LAPD Detectives, Chayo Reyes and Dave Harned, over the past decade. According to testimony presented when SB 1742 was heard in the legislature, those tactics have prevented the loss of millions of dollars in assets. Their impact is felt not only in California but across the nation; the training and assistance that those officers have provided to other law enforcement agencies have been critical to the prevention of financial abuse across the country. The strategies developed by your administration have enabled victims of elder and dependent adult abuse to avoid being dependent, for the rest of their lives, on family or government aid.

I also applaud your detectives for collaborating on this project with Los Angeles Attorney Marc Hankin, who provided invaluable expertise in the drafting and revision of the measure for its sponsors. These sponsors, the Estate Planning, Trust & Probate Law Section of the State Bar and the California Commission on Aging, benefited greatly from his involvement.

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With the passage of SB 1742, California's law enforcement community can now apply your department's cutting-edge procedures to protect some of our most vulnerable citizens from the devastation caused by financial abuse. In addition, you will be pleased to know that Senate Bill 1742 was recently presented in Washington, D.C. on October 30, 2000, at the Federal Attorney General's Elder Abuse Symposium, as a model to be replicated nationwide.

With deepest respect, I congratulate you, your department and Detectives Chayo Reyes and Dave Harned, who exemplify the spirit of the Los Angeles Police Department's motto of "to protect and to serve".

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Teresa P. Hughes". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

TERESA P. HUGHES
Member of the Senate