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April 29, 2003

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Police Officers' Association
Clark County School District
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RE: A. B. 158 Category I Peace Officer

The Clark County School District Police Department has 140 commissioned officers. These officers are *currently* trained as Category I Peace Officers and are first responders to incidents that occur on 277 school campuses along with other Clark County School District properties. The district has an enrollment in excess of 255,000 students and more than 30,000 employees.

I respectfully ask that an interim study be conducted to consider the reclassification of Clark County School Police Officers from Category II Peace Officers to Category I Peace Officers. Per Nevada Administrative Code, the difference in training an officer as Category I as opposed to Category II is as follows:

- Laws governing coroners
- Traffic laws
- Operation of emergency vehicles
- Basic patrol procedures
- Stopping and citing of drivers of vehicles
- Searching of buildings
- Weapons of mass destruction
- Nonlethal weapons
- Investigation of drivers who are under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance
- Investigations of accidents
- Physical conditioning

Clark County School District police officers drive marked emergency vehicles and respond to incidents that occur on school district property including traffic accidents in which an investigation must occur and a Form 5 (accident report) be completed and submitted to the State of Nevada. We investigate drivers who are under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance and enforce traffic laws. We are trained to deal with weapons of mass destruction and routinely perform building searches upon receiving a burglary alarm activation. We could not effectively perform the functions bestowed upon us as Clark County School District Police Officers if we were not trained in the above areas.

With the current budget issues, it is a concern that the Clark County School District Police Department may be forced to train its police officers as Category II. If the training of police officers diminishes it will greatly impact the safety of students and staff and will

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SUBMITTED BY: Tammy Whatley

force local law enforcement agencies to respond to schools more frequently thus causing a delay in response time. We now live in a day and age in which police are needed on school campuses for various reasons. We *currently* have a police department that is fully capable of handling situations that arise on the campuses. In this day in which we must be vigilant about homeland security as well as school violence, I ask that you not step backwards but continue forward and support the Clark County School District Police Department.

I respectfully request that an interim study be conducted to consider the reclassification of Clark County School District Police Officers from a Category II Peace Officer to a Category I Peace Officer.

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