



June 30, 2022

Sent Via U.S. Mail

The Honorable Rob Bonta
Attorney General of the State of California
California Department of Justice
P.O. Box 944255
Sacramento, CA 94244-2550

**Re: Request for Increased Transparency into the California Department of Justice's
Response to Unauthorized Release of Sensitive Personal Information from 2022 Firearms
Dashboard**

Dear Attorney General Bonta,

I write to you today on behalf of the Peace Officers Research Association of California (PORAC), the largest statewide law enforcement organization in the nation representing over 75,000 public safety officers and 930 associations. I write to share our deep alarm surrounding the recent breach of sensitive personal information through the California Department of Justice (DOJ)'s Firearms Dashboard Portal, Assault Weapon Registry, Handguns Certified for Sale, Dealer Record of Sale, Firearms Certificate Safety and Gun Violence Restraining Order dashboards.

We know that the portal has since been taken down, but while it was available, it potentially exposed all individuals whose data may have been housed in any of the abovementioned dashboards to an increased risk of harm and identity theft. This includes the name, date of birth, gender, race, driver's license number, addresses and criminal history of judges, peace officers, elected officials, corrections officers, reserve officers and even domestic violence victims. Our society has a vested public safety interest in maintaining the confidentiality of these individuals who, by the nature of these classifications, could have criminals seeking every opportunity to do them harm.

More than any other class of people whose safety was put at risk by the DOJ's actions, the risk to victims of domestic violence is particularly egregious. Victims of domestic violence whose lives have been impacted by months or years of abuse need our support and protection – not to be publicly identified and put at risk of having their abusers find and harm them.

We appreciate your confirmation that the unauthorized breach compromised all individuals that were either approved or denied for a Concealed Carry Weapons permit (CCW) over a ten-year period from 2011-2021, and are requesting clarification on the full extent of the information exposed through the other dashboards, including whether the original release of information includes firearms purchasers.

Notwithstanding the immense risk the DOJ's actions have placed upon these individuals and others throughout the state, both in terms of personal safety and protecting against identity theft, **this breach essentially provided a roadmap for criminals identifying where exactly throughout the state guns are located.** This creates opportunities for criminals seeking to take advantage of the DOJ's failure to acquire weapons that cannot be traced back to them in the commission of future crimes.

Brian R. Marvel
President

Damon Kurtz
Vice President

Shawn Welch
Treasurer

Randy Beintema
Secretary

While we were pleased to hear that you, as our state's Attorney General, did not authorize the release of this highly sensitive information, the fact that DOJ staff felt empowered to act on their own in this regard absent your approval is of grave concern. The California Constitution establishes the Attorney General as the state's chief law officer, responsible for ensuring that the laws of the state are uniformly and adequately enforced. Every action taken by your office or the DOJ that your office is responsible for must first be confirmed as supporting that constitutional obligation.

We were likewise pleased to see that you are working in collaboration with law enforcement partners throughout the state to provide support to those whose information was exposed. In furtherance of that effort, and to help ensure that support from local law enforcement can be made available for those whose information has been exposed, we are requesting that the DOJ:

- Immediately notify all affected individuals.
- Provide identity theft protection to those individuals.
- Identify all individuals or entities that accessed the information and make every effort to retrieve and destroy the data.
- In the interested of full transparency, fully disclose how this happened and identify any persons who authorized or caused this disclosure.
- Share any impacts this may have had on active-duty peace officers, as well as the DOJ's plans to remedy such impacts.

Remedying this invasive and dangerous action from the DOJ will require far more than the credit monitoring services being offered. It may require increased police presence throughout the state to protect those who believe their lives have been put at risk, which will necessarily come with increased costs and stretch California police staffing at a time when violence continues to plague our major cities. Any resources your office can make available to local law enforcement to support that necessary response to the DOJ's actions would go a long way towards restoring the trust that the DOJ has broken with this unauthorized release of information.

We invite you to work with us in developing the right response to this failure that will prioritize public safety as the single greatest priority that we both share and that your office has a constitutional obligation to uphold.

Very Truly Yours,
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Peace Officers Research Association of California



Brian R. Marvel
President
Peace Officers Research Association of California

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The Honorable Anthony Rendon, Speaker, California State Assembly
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