



# Office of the Sheriff

## SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

### STATIONS

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140 W. Highway 246  
Buellton, CA 93427  
Phone (805) 686-8150

**Carpinteria**  
5775 Carpinteria Avenue  
Carpinteria, CA 93013  
Phone (805) 755-4452

**Isla Vista**  
6504 Trigo Road  
Isla Vista, CA 93117  
Phone (805) 681-4179

**Lompoc**  
3500 Harris Grade Road  
Lompoc, CA 93436  
Phone (805) 737-7737

**New Cuyama**  
70 Newsome Street  
New Cuyama, CA 93254  
Phone (661) 766-2310

**Santa Maria**  
812-A W. Foster Road  
Santa Maria, CA 93455  
Phone (805) 934-6150

**Solvang**  
1745 Mission Drive  
Solvang, CA 93463  
Phone (805) 686-5000

**Sheriff - Coroner Office**  
66 S. San Antonio Road  
Santa Barbara, CA 93110  
Phone (805) 681-4145

**Main Jail**  
4436 Calle Real  
Santa Barbara, CA 93110  
Phone (805) 681-4260

### COURT SERVICES CIVIL OFFICES

**Santa Barbara**  
1105 Santa Barbara Street  
P.O. Box 690  
Santa Barbara, CA 93102  
Phone (805) 568-2900

**Santa Maria**  
312 E. Cook Street, "O"  
P.O. Box 5049  
Santa Maria, CA 93456  
Phone (805) 346-7430

**HEADQUARTERS**  
P.O. Box 6427 • 4434 Calle Real • Santa Barbara, California 93160  
Phone (805) 681-4100 • Fax (805) 681-4322  
[www.sbsheriff.org](http://www.sbsheriff.org)

**BILL BROWN**

Sheriff - Coroner

**SOL LINVER**

Undersheriff

November 15, 2019

The Honorable Steve Lavagnino, Chair  
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors  
105 East Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara, California 93101

RE: Letter of Support – Ban on Flavored Tobacco Vape Products

Dear Supervisor Lavagnino and Members of the Board,

We are all too aware of the current e-cigarette vaping epidemic in our country. Santa Barbara County reported two recent vaping cases that required hospitalization, while Ventura County has experienced four cases of severe respiratory illness. We've seen the tragic outcome on the nightly news – severe breathing problems, lung damage, death and heartbreak. Most recently, a study from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) indicates that there is growing evidence that e-cigarettes may damage the heart as well. In response to this crisis, the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office urgently supports an immediate ban on flavored tobacco vape products and further applicable restrictions. We must take a proactive stand to protect the health of our citizens, especially our children.

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) reports that since June of 2019, one hundred fifty-six people in our state with a history of vaping "were hospitalized for severe breathing problems and lung damage" and, sadly, three have died. Reports of lung damage nationwide have soared to over 2,000 and that number swells almost daily. As the toll mounts, our local and federal governments are in the process of imposing restrictions on e-cigarette companies to protect consumers. These are essential legislative responses to help curtail this growing health hazard.

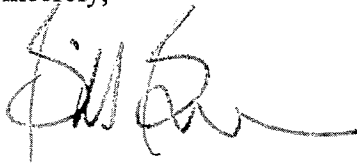
According to the CDPH, "Teenagers and young adults make up almost half of the people hospitalized with breathing related problems from vaping in California." The current rise in vaping, especially by young people, is attributed to the flavoring of these products. Statistics show that over 80% of young people who use tobacco

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started with a flavored product. The industry market has intentionally targeted adolescents and young adults by offering sweet flavorings like gummy bear, chocolate mint, cotton candy, and many other tantalizing options, including menthol. These flavorings play a significant role in attracting young users, which often leads them to nicotine addiction. The industry is reaping significant financial profits at an appalling cost – including severe health hazards, and sometimes, loss of human life.

As parents and concerned leaders, we witness many unexpected dangers that our youth face daily and we staunchly safeguard against them. Flavored vapes, and essentially any vaping products, pose a serious health risk to our citizens. I urge you to implement a ban on all flavored e-cigarette vape products so we can keep these products out of the hands of children in our communities. We fully support Santa Barbara County legislation restricting the sale of flavored tobacco, restricting pricing strategies and establishing requirements based on minimum pack and price. This legislation is essential for the safety of our residents, especially our most vulnerable ones – our children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Brown", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

BILL BROWN  
Sheriff

cc: CEO Mona Miyasato  
Assistant CEO Barney Melekian