

**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Jerome E. Horton and George Runner Announce Arrest of Person Impersonating Inspector**

### *Caution Area Retailers Against Ongoing Criminal Schemes*

Jerome E. Horton, Chairman of the California State Board of Equalization (BOE), and George Runner, Second District BOE Member, today while noting the arrest by Claremont Police Department Detectives of a suspect in an area robbery in which the suspect impersonated an inspector, cautioned business owners to remain vigilant against possible impostors.

Chairman Horton [previously warned](#) that Los Angeles area retailers were being targeted by a person or persons impersonating BOE or other investigators who enter a store, request information from another area of the store, and then steal cash, cigarettes, other tobacco products, and cigarette license information. The businesses affected in this scheme have typically been retailers of donuts and cigarettes.

To date, the BOE has received fourteen complaints from retailers about similar incidents in the cities of Los Angeles, El Monte, Pomona, Chino Hills, Gardena, Whittier, and Arleta, and is assisting local law enforcement with their investigations.

The BOE has investigators who visit retailers to ensure compliance in the BOE's cigarette licensing program. In addition, retailers can expect occasional visits from BOE's Statewide Compliance Outreach Program (SCOP), designed to ensure retailers are properly registered with and reporting to the BOE. In each instance, BOE employees will offer identification.

Efren Arceo, 47, was taken into custody by Claremont Detectives on September 29, during the execution of a search warrant at his residence in Los Angeles. Arceo is suspected of burglarizing a business in Claremont on September 19, posing as a health inspector, and is suspected to have committed at least 30 similar burglaries.

If you suspect an impersonator or have any concerns, immediately contact your local law enforcement agency. When it is safe, contact the BOE's hotline number at 888-334-3300 to report the incident. To confirm the identity of a BOE representative, you may also contact your [local BOE office](#).

Elected in 2010, Chairman Jerome E. Horton is the Fourth District Member of the California State Board of Equalization, representing more than 8.5 million residents in Los Angeles County. He is also the Board of Equalization Legislative Committee chairman. He is the first to serve on the Board of Equalization with over 21 years of experience at the BOE. Horton previously served as an Assembly Member of the California State Assembly from 2000-2006.

Elected in November 2010, taxpayer advocate George Runner represents the Second District of the Board of Equalization. Runner was sworn in as Second District Board Member on January 3, 2011. Prior to his election to the Board, Runner served twelve years in the State Legislature. As a thoughtful conservative, his legislative priorities included improving the economy, business growth, education excellence, and public safety for all

Californians. As a member of the Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee, Runner consistently led the fight against tax increases and supported tax relief for families and businesses.

The five-member California State Board of Equalization is a publicly elected tax board. The Board of Equalization collects more than \$50 billion annually in taxes and fees supporting state and local government services. It hears business tax appeals, acts as the appellate body for franchise and personal income tax appeals, and serves a significant role in the assessment and administration of property taxes. For more information on other taxes and fees in California, visit [www.taxes.ca.gov](http://www.taxes.ca.gov).

Special Notice: <http://www.boe.ca.gov/news/pdf/1287.pdf>

Special Notice (Vietnamese): <http://www.boe.ca.gov/news/pdf/ImposterNotice-v.pdf>

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