



CITY OF LONG BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

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PATRICK H. WEST
CITY MANAGER

August 21, 2015

The Honorable Kansen Chu
California State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0025

Re: Opposition to Assembly Bill 718 (Chu) – Local Government Authority. Sleeping in Vehicles

Dear Assemblymember Chu:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write in opposition to Assembly Bill 718 (Chu). Long Beach is sensitive to the challenges that homeless individuals face, and has made significant progress in recent years to transition individuals experiencing homelessness into permanent housing. AB 718 threatens to undo this progress by allowing the act of sleeping in a lawfully parked motor vehicle.

Long Beach devotes significant resources towards reducing homelessness and views homelessness as a temporary state that can be mitigated through case management and support services. To this end, Long Beach funds the Multi-Service Center, a nationally-recognized facility dedicated to assisting homeless individuals transition into permanent housing through supportive services. The City has a strategic plan to reduce homelessness that prioritizes four goals: (1) Reduce the number of people who become homeless; (2) Increase the number of homeless individuals placed into permanent housing; (3) Decrease the length of homeless episodes; and (4) Provide community-based services that prevent homelessness before it happens and diminish opportunities for homelessness to recur.

Restricting local government authority to appropriately protect the public health, safety and welfare of our residents runs counter to the City's strategy for balancing the needs of our community and reducing homelessness. The Long Beach City Council has adopted a plan that works, and the City believes it is the best plan for improving the quality of life for all Long Beach residents, homeless or not.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach opposes AB 718.

Sincerely,

Patrick H. West
CITY MANAGER

cc: The Honorable Ricardo Lara, State Senate, 33rd District
The Honorable Janet Nguyen, State Senate, 34th District
The Honorable Isadore Hall, III, State Senate, 35th District
The Honorable Anthony Rendon, State Assembly, 63rd District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64th District
The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell, State Assembly, 70th District