May 9, 2016

The Honorable Reginald Jones-Sawyer
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 4126
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: Support for AB 2626 (Jones-Sawyer): Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training: procedural justice training

Dear Assemblymember Jones-Sawyer:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write in support of AB 2626. This bill supports quality law enforcement and promotes greater community awareness within law enforcement agencies by requiring procedural justice and implicit bias training as a part of a peace officer’s training. I am proud to share the City of Long Beach is home to numerous ethnic groups who add depth to our local culture and economy, and has already committed to implementing the same training that will be required by this bill in our City this year.

AB 2626 is consistent with local policies the Long Beach Police Department has adopted. The City of Long Beach is encouraged to learn that the legislation would require the State Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training to develop and disseminate similar guidelines and training for peace officers on principled policing, which would include the subjects of procedural justice and implicit bias, similar to training that is being implemented in Long Beach.

Recently endorsed by the President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing, procedural justice and implicit bias training provide positive reinforcement of the Long Beach Police Department’s values and culture. This year, every Long Beach Police Officer will receive the first of a two-part in-house training on procedural justice and implicit bias. The curriculum was developed in partnership with private and non-profit organizations and will be the first of its kind in the Los Angeles/Orange County area. We are proud to be able to provide this training in an effort to continue to enhance the public’s trust in our officers and Police Department.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach supports AB 2626.

Sincerely,

Patrick H. West
CITY MANAGER

cc: The Honorable Speaker Anthony Rendon
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 Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64th District
The Honorable Patrick O’Donnell, State Assembly, 70th District