May 4, 2018

The Honorable Tom Lackey
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2174
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Opposition to Assembly Bill 2544 (Lackey): Parking Violations

Dear Assemblymember Lackey:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write to oppose Assembly Bill 2544 (Lackey). The bill seeks to preempt cities from collecting unpaid parking citations regardless of the date on which the ticket was issued unless the city is fully compliant with AB 503; a bill that was just enacted last year.

The City of Long Beach, along with other major California cities worked closely with Assemblymember Lackey on AB 503 to develop a parking citation payment plan for indigent recipients of parking citations. While Long Beach began the process with several concerns, we were able to reach consensus on a proposal after much collaboration and input from local government and the Assemblymember’s Office. AB 503 (Lackey) represented a difficult compromise for all and was negotiated in good faith.

The program start date was negotiated to July 1, 2018, with the specific understanding that the program would apply to all qualifying individuals beginning July 1, 2018. A retroactive application to parking citations before July 1, 2018 would have not been agreed to and is very problematic.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach opposes AB 2544 (Lackey).

Patrick H. West
CITY MANAGER

cc: The Honorable Speaker Anthony Rendon, State Assembly
    The Honorable Steven Bradford, State Senate, 35th District
    The Honorable Ricardo Lara, State Senate, 33rd District
    The Honorable Janet Nguyen, State Senate, 34th District
    The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64th District
    The Honorable Patrick O’Donnell, State Assembly, 70th District