



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

September 8, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, Room 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 846 (Burke): Public Employment: Public Officers or Employees Declared by Law to be Peace Officers

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write to support Assembly Bill 846 (Burke). This bill proposes strategies for the Commission on Police Officer Standards and Training and local law enforcement agencies to eliminate discriminatory bias in hiring and emphasize community interaction in public safety. AB 846 aligns with the Long Beach Police Department's (LBPd) actions to ensure diverse law enforcement and the City's efforts included in our Framework for Reconciliation to advance racial equity in Long Beach.

In response to the tragic death of George Floyd in Minneapolis on May 25, 2020, the Long Beach City Council adopted the Framework to engage in a public listening process, internal policy review, and local action plan. On August 11, 2020, the Long Beach City Council approved the Racial Equity and Reconciliation Initiative's Initial Report. Upon analysis of 17 public hearings, with consideration of national best practices and existing City data, the Report included numerous goals to address racial inequity. Consistent with this objective, the LBPd is a national leader in advancing diversity in hiring and has been working to build trust and strengthen community relations.

The City supports policies to recruit diverse law enforcement workforces to improve transparency, community understanding, and effectiveness. LBPd emphasizes community-based public safety, and AB 846 would further the intent of the City's local action plan and LBPd's innovative training methods statewide.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach supports AB 846 (Burke) and requests your signature on this bill.

Sincerely,

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Speaker Anthony Rendon, State Assembly
The Honorable Lena Gonzalez, State Senate, 33rd District
The Honorable Tom Umberg, State Senate, 34th District
The Honorable Steven Bradford, State Senate, 35th District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64th District
The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell, State Assembly, 70th District