



CITY OF LONG BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

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PATRICK H. WEST
CITY MANAGER

May 22, 2019

The Honorable Mike Gipson
California State Assembly
Capitol Office, Room 3173
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable David Chiu
California State Assembly
Capitol Office, Room 4112
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Opposition for AB 516 (Gipson and Chiu) Authority to Remove Vehicles

Dear Assemblymembers Gipson and Chiu:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach (City), I write to oppose Assembly Bill 516 (Gipson and Chiu), unless the City would be exempted from the legislation in recognition of our citation payment programs and internal management. This bill proposes to eliminate authorization to impound a vehicle for any of the following reasons: (a) having five or more delinquent parking or traffic violations, (b) abandoning a vehicle for 72 or more consecutive hours, or (c) possessing expired vehicle registration beyond six months.

While Long Beach understands the need to address the cost of living for residents of California, particularly those experiencing homelessness, we believe cities understand their unique infrastructure best to facilitate the implementation of citation management. The City offers several programs to assist low-income residents and residents experiencing homelessness. Beginning July 1, 2018, the City implemented Payment Plans to indigent registered owners with unpaid parking citations in addition to offering payment plans for non-indigent customers experiencing a financial hardship. In alignment with the City's nationally recognized Continuum of Care (CoC), a new program is scheduled to launch by the end of May 2019 to waive parking citations and tow fees for residents experiencing homelessness. A copy of the City's citation waiver policy and waiver request are attached. These programs provide a means to assist vehicle owners to manage or avoid parking and tow costs and retain their vehicles.

Long Beach is one of the few cities that manages citations and towing internally. Each year, the City tows approximately 3,500 vehicles due to the three reasons specified in AB 516. Over 50 percent of citations for these vehicles are due to the expiration of vehicle registration; however, vehicle registration is a matter between the Department of Motor Vehicles and vehicle owners. If AB 516 were to become law, the reduced authority would result in a loss of revenue of over \$1 million for the City, and nearly \$50,000 for the State from mandated surcharges.

Legislation that reduces parking enforcement further aggravates parking availability from affordable housing legislation that implements stricter parking requirements per unit, primarily in large cities. In September 2018, a comprehensive evaluation of on-street and off-street parking was conducted via the City's Downtown Long Beach Areas Parking Study (Study). The Study found that a high demand exists for on-street public parking, both curbside metered and un-metered parking. Creating exemptions for vehicle impoundment, as AB 516 proposes, would result in an influx of abandoned vehicles that reduce available parking options.

The City opposes legislation that terminates resources dedicated to infrastructure that contributes to neighborhood quality. As our citation programs and services demonstrate, Long Beach works well with all stakeholders to support every resident's financial circumstance. We recognize that despite our efforts, parking citations continue to present a financial burden for California residents. However, the City urges state policy proposals aimed at addressing parking fines to consider all factors impacting the management of citations, including, but not limited to, responsible agencies, revenue streams, and other market forces, as these are truly our collective challenges to ease the burden of citation management.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach respectfully opposes AB 516 (Gipson and Chiu).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P. West', written in a cursive style.

Patrick H. West
CITY MANAGER

cc: The Honorable Speaker Anthony Rendon, State Assembly
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

Towing/Parking Homelessness Waiver Policy & Procedure

Overview:

This policy implements a multi-pronged approach to assist individuals living in vehicles to retrieve their vehicles if they are towed. The intent is to waive parking and towing fees if the individual is verified as homeless and meets the indigence criteria adopted for parking citations under AB-2544. In addition to a potential fee waiver, the policy is designed to encourage individuals experiencing homelessness to seek assistance from the City's Multi-Service Center.

Responsibilities:

The Director of Finance will ensure Towing and Commercial Services comply with this policy and the Director of Health and Human Services will ensure compliance through the Homeless Services Division.

Procedure:

Individuals experiencing homelessness whose vehicles are towed by the City's Towing and Lien Sales Division may apply for waiver of their towing and storage fees. Additionally, these individuals may apply for waiver of outstanding parking citations.

These individuals must meet the following criteria to apply for fee waivers:

- Individuals must prove indigence to the Parking Unit in Commercial Services.
- Individuals must be validated as homeless and living in their vehicle by the Homeless Services Division.
- Individuals must be deemed eligible for a waiver by the Homeless Services Division (based on a standardized screening.).
- Only one waiver will be granted per individual.

Individuals will follow these guidelines to apply for waiver of towing/parking fees:

- After their vehicle is towed, interested individuals obtain a Towing/Parking Homelessness Waiver application (attached) from either the Towing and Lien Sales Division or Commercial Services.
- Individuals will fill out the Part A of the application with their basic information.
- Towing and Lien Sales staff fill out Part B of the application (outstanding tow charges.)
- Individuals will fill out Part C of the application (indigence information)
- Individuals will take their application to Commercial Services to verify indigence (Part C) and input a summary of any parking citations in Part D.

Waiver processing:

- After completion of Parts A through D, Commercial Services will return the application to the individual who will take it to Homeless Services.

- Homeless Services will assess the individual for services and referrals based upon a client centered model and perform a site visit to validate the individual is living in their vehicle. (Part E)
- Homeless Services will complete their part of the application (Part E), including eligibility for waiver based on their screening of the individual and their circumstances.
- Homeless Services will forward the completed application to Commercial Services, who in turn will forward to the Finance Director, who is the approval authority. The Finance Director may delegate this authority to the Fleet Services Bureau Manager at his/her discretion.
- The Finance Director (or delegate) will review the information and waive all, some, or no outstanding fees, returning the application to Commercial Services or Towing (as appropriate), with Part F completed.
- Commercial Services or Towing (as appropriate) will contact the individual to complete the waiver process.



CITY OF LONG BEACH

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

333 West Ocean Boulevard, Lobby Level, Long Beach, CA 90802 (562) 570-6822

TOWING/PARKING HOMELESSNESS WAIVER REQUEST

A	<p><u>APPLICANT INFORMATION</u></p> <p>Registered Owner(s)/Lessee(s) who meet the following criteria may use this form to apply for a waiver of Towing and associated Parking Citations. Applicants must meet the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Validated as "indigent" by the Parking Unit in Commercial Services.2. Eligible for homeless services and living in their vehicle, as validated by the Homeless Services Division.3. Recommended by the Homeless Services Division (based on situational assessment). <p>Name: _____ Phone #: _____ Email: _____</p> <p>Address: _____ City: _____</p> <p>State: _____ Zip: _____</p>												
B	<p><u>TOWING CHARGES</u> <i>(To be completed by Towing and Lien Sales Division)</i></p> <p>Invoice #: _____ License Plate: _____ DL #: _____</p> <p>Invoice Amount: \$ _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____</p> <p>Name: _____</p>												
C	<p><u>VERIFICATION OF INCOME</u> <i>(To be completed by Individual)</i></p> <p>Please indicate the documentation that you have attached to this application:</p> <p>(A) Proof of income. Please provide your three (3) most recent pay stubs.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. My monthly income amount is: _____2. Number of people residing in the household: _____ <p>(B) Must provide Verification of Benefits Form for Public Assistance, or Award Letter for Social Security. Please check the boxes that apply:</p> <table><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Employment</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Supplemental Security Income</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS)</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Food Stamps</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> California Work Opportunity</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> General Relief (GR), County Relief or</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Medi-Cal</td><td>(Cal Works)</td><td>General Assistance (GA)</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Other</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>	<input type="checkbox"/> Employment	<input type="checkbox"/> Supplemental Security Income	<input type="checkbox"/> In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS)	<input type="checkbox"/> Food Stamps	<input type="checkbox"/> California Work Opportunity	<input type="checkbox"/> General Relief (GR), County Relief or	<input type="checkbox"/> Medi-Cal	(Cal Works)	General Assistance (GA)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other		
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<input type="checkbox"/> Medi-Cal	(Cal Works)	General Assistance (GA)											
<input type="checkbox"/> Other													

C

VERIFICATION OF INCOME (CONTINUED)

(C) If the Registered Owner(s)/Lessee(s) does not have income or receives public assistance, a copy of annual earnings from the Social Security Department is required.

I certify that all statements are true and correct. Any false or incomplete information may forfeit my rights to a one-time waiver.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please take this form along with your supporting documents to:

Long Beach Parking Citations
333 W Ocean Blvd, Lobby Level
Long Beach, CA 90801

D

PARKING CHARGES (To be completed by Commercial Services Bureau)

Parking Citation Total: \$ _____

Verification of attached documents: Yes [] No []

Approval: Granted [] Denied []

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____

E

HOMELESS VERIFICATION (To be completed by Homeless Services Division)

Screening provided?: Yes [] No [] Comments: _____

Eligible for Homeless Services?: Yes [] No [] _____

Verified Living in Vehicle: Yes [] No [] _____

Eligible for Waiver: Yes [] No [] _____

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Date: _____

F

APPROVAL (Finance Director or designee)

Approved [] Denied []

Approval Amount: \$ _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____ Title: _____

(Send to Commercial Services Bureau or Towing & Lien Sales Division, as appropriate)